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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-198
Friday
12 October 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Islamic Affairs

King Hassan Calls Meeting of Jerusalem Committee

LD1110130190 Rabat MAP in English 1217 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, Oct 11 (MAP)—King Hassan II decided to summon the Al-Quds [Jerusalem] Committee for a meeting in Rabat this October 15 to examine the serious situation triggered by the slaughter perpetrated by Israeli authorities on the esplanade of the mosque at Al-Quds (Jerusalem), it was officially announced here Wednesday [10 October].

A communique by the Moroccan Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation said the meeting will provide opportunity to concert the stand the Islamic world should adopt to respond to the Israeli inhuman acts and to guarantee the protection of holy shrines and of Palestinians in Al-Quds.

The Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation sent the royal invitation to the foreign ministers of the committee member countries to participate in this meeting, the communique said.

The Al-Quds Committee is formed of Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Guinea, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco (chairman), Mauritania, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Senegal and Syria in addition to the secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The chairmanship of the committee, incepted in 1975, was entrusted to King Hassan II in 1979. It held since then twelve sessions, the latest in Rabat last April 6 and 7.

The committee's mission is to follow up the evolution of the Al-Quds issue and to take actions to frustrate Israeli attempts to wipe up the Arab-Islamic characteristics of the holy city of Al-Quds.

International Islamic Meeting in Tripoli Ends

LD0510175490 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1940 GMT 22 Sep 90

[Text] The work of the second meeting of the General Secretariat of the International Islamic Popular Leadership for this year ended this evening in Tripoli. At the end of the meeting, a final statement was issued containing a number of important resolutions concerning Islam and Muslims in various regions of the world. They include the International Islamic Popular Leadership's affirmation of support and backing of the Palestinian people in their confrontation with the Zionist enemy and their right to the liberation of all of occupied Palestine.

The General Secretariat affirmed that the Libyan initiative announced by the brother leader of the revolution to resolve the Gulf crisis is considered a logical and realistic solution, and international legitimacy is for the United Nations and not the U.S. forces. It called for the withdrawal of foreign military forces from the area, the lifting of the blockade against Iraq, and the introduction of Arab and Islamic forces to replace the U.S. and Western forces currently present in the Gulf.

The General Secretariat of the International Islamic Popular Leadership affirmed the need for Islamic minorities in the world to achieve their religious, cultural, and social rights, particularly the Islamic minorities of India, China, Albania, and Yugoslavia, and the Islamic nations in the USSR.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Central Council Begins Meetings in Tunis

JN1010211990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] In the presence of brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Central Council began its meetings in Tunis today, Wednesday [10 October], under the chairmanship of Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. The PLO Central Council will discuss the situation in our occupied Palestinian territory in light of the escalation in crimes and bestial massacres perpetrated by the Zionist occupation forces against the sons of our Palestinian people—the latest of which was the bloody massacre of al-Aqsa—and the ways to protect our people from these crimes and to confront the arrogant fascist Zionist enemy firmly and strongly.

The PLO Central Council will also discuss developments in the Palestine question, the current Arab situation, and the Gulf crisis.

'Arafat Addresses Opening Session

JN1110212390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1943 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to the opening session of the PLO Central Council in Tunis on 10 October—read by announcer]

[Text] In the Name of the God, the merciful, the compassionate: God has purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise: They fight in his cause, and slay and are slain. A promise binding on Him in truth, through the law, the gospel and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: This is the achievement supreme. [Koranic verses]

Mr. Speaker; Brothers of the Palestinian leadership; Brother Members: Our Central Council convenes today under extremely important and serious circumstances on the Palestinian, Arab, and international fronts—all the more so as we live with holy Jerusalem and the entire occupied Palestinian homeland, these bloody incidents and continuing massacres and racist Zionist attacks against our Islamic and Christian sanctities. A short while ago tyrannic Zionists occupied the Saint John's Hospice in holy Jerusalem and manhandled the patriarch of Jerusalem, and are still spreading corruption there—in our Islamic holy shrines; in Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, and elsewhere.

Two days ago, Zionist racists moved to once again defile the holy mosque, as they once desecrated the Ibrahimi Mosque [in Hebron], when a group of Zionist religious zealots attempted to lay the foundation stone for the so-called temple in the holy mosque where the Prophet Muhammad stopped and ascended to heaven from the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and the revered, the Mosque of the Dome of the Rock. Our kinfolk in Jerusalem stood up to them to keep them from perpetrating their reprehensible crime against our sanctities and formed this human, faithful, struggling shield to protect these holy shrines, with the result that armed settlers opened fire along with the armed and police forces and the Shin Bet who were guarding these Zionists in their ugly mission. Even helicopters opened up with machine guns, and dropped internationally-banned gas bombs on our people, killing 32 martyrs and injuring over 900 people, and arresting hundreds of our cadres and political and religious leaders. The violent confrontations immediately spread to all of our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and even to the Galilee and the triangle and the Negev. Nazareth, Yafo, and other locations, in addition to our cities and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, rose up in demonstrations, protests, and confrontations culminating in further martyrs and wounded people. Further, Israeli forces apprehended more of our people to join thousands of detainees in Ashqelon, al-Junayd, and other detention centers. Clashes are still going on throughout our occupied land; Israeli occupation forces have sealed off all areas of the West Bank and Gaza strip and declared them off limits in order to pursue their premeditated crimes. They are premeditated in that Shamir and his government are seeking to use the Gulf crisis, their strategic agreement with the United States, and the U.S. plan, to involve themselves militarily with the United States in any possible military action in the region so they can carry out their ugly crimes against our sanctities, children, women, and people. Toward that end, a committee comprised of Shamir, Arens, and Rabin, namely, the two major parties, has been set up. This committee meets regularly with the chief of staff, the commander of the Air Force, and the chief of intelligence.

Immediately afterward, we called for a UN Security Council meeting. However, the U.S. Administration and its allies applied and continue to apply pressure to prevent the UN Security Council from issuing resolutions of denunciation calling for international protection of our holy places and people, or including any reference to an international conference on the Middle East. At the same time, eight resolutions were issued against Iraq in one month, to besiege Iraq and starve its people. In addition, the United States used the veto seven times within a short period of time against Palestine and the people of Palestine to protect Israel and its crimes and occupation of our Palestinian and Arab land in southern Lebanon and the Golan. We greatly appreciate the reaction of many friends in France, the Soviet Union, China, and many European, Islamic, African, and nonaligned states against the crime—a stand for which we thank them. We ask, however, the U.S. Administration and those who stand alongside it: Why this blatant bias toward Israel, and why is there no single standard for international resolutions and legitimacy? Legitimacy is an indivisible whole, whether in the Gulf, Namibia, South Africa, or in Palestine.

Resolutions 242 and 338 were issued twenty-three years ago, but so far have not been implemented. A resolution has been issued on an international conference on the Middle East, but has not been implemented. Israel annexed Jerusalem, which is a holy place for Muslims and Christians, but the United States and its allies did not act. Israel annexed the Golan, but the United States and its allies did not act.

Mr. Speaker, Brothers: Since the eruption of the Gulf crisis, we in the PLO moved to contain the crisis and resolve the problem within an Arab framework, as we did as an Arab family in Lebanon during the Syrian-Palestinian dispute in 1979, during the first Kuwait-Iraq crisis in 1972-73, and in other incidents and problems within the Arab family. Regrettably, however, while we were trying to find a way out and an Arab solution to the current crisis in the Gulf, others rejected that. What happened in the recent Arab summit in Cairo also exposed the dimensions of this problem when three Libyan, Sudanese, and Palestinian proposals were prevented from being put to a vote before a resolution was approved and issued, not unanimously, but by the majority. That was against the Arab League's laws and regulations. We continued to move, however, despite the unjust campaigns and deliberate distortion of our position. Moreover, this distortion has included all our people, even affecting their means of livelihood when hundreds of workers were expelled from some Gulf states through no fault of their own. On your behalf, I tell these states: Cutting off one's means of living is like cutting off one's head. In cooperation with the brothers in Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Morocco, and Libya, we launched initiatives to resolve the crisis in the Gulf politically, peacefully, within the Arab framework, and under an international umbrella, owing to the presence of foreign forces.

We recently took action with Palestinian ideas that can be a basis for an overall Arab initiative, after presenting them to our brothers in the above-mentioned states. We also sent them to other Arab countries and to international parties, particularly after President Mitterrand's speech. Then came the recent Soviet-Palestinian joint move and the moves with France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and other European countries, as well as with African, Islamic, and nonaligned countries. These moves were aimed in the same direction—that is, to defuse a destructive war.

We will continue with our moves and efforts—our humble efforts—together with all honest people in our Arab nation, whom I call the states of the Arab solution, as well as with our friends in the whole world, to reach a political solution to the Gulf crisis—a solution that will preserve the rights and interests of everybody and safeguard pan-Arab security and the future of our nation without the American and foreign military presence in our Arab territory.

This also requires solving all problems in the region in all their aspects—from Palestine, to southern Lebanon, and the Golan. Legitimacy is a whole and cannot be divided. Hence came the recent Soviet-Palestinian move to Baghdad and the satisfactory results it produced.

And at last, I say to my kinfolk and beloved ones in Jerusalem, in occupied Palestine: The dawn is coming, victory is coming, and the state is a stone's throw away. A child from the children of stones will raise the flag of Palestine, the flag of the Arab nation, over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem. This flag will be raised over Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

Let America, its allies, and those who stand with it, particularly the Zionist state, know that we, the Muslims, the Christians, the Palestinians, and the Arabs; say with belief, strength, and will; that our Islamic and Christian holy places in Palestine are dearer, more important, and more lasting than oil.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: And they will enter the your mosque as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse]

I say to you and to our kinfolk in our occupied territory: Be patient Al Yasir [early Moslems who were tortured by the enemies of Islam]. Your rendezvous with victory has arrived.

Further Reaction to Al-Aqsa Mosque Incident

PLF Warns of Retaliation

LD1210002190 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GMT 11 Oct 90

["Special Program" entitled: "Palestinian Leader Warns of Reprisal Against Israel"—read by announcer]

[Text] Palestinian leader Muhammad Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] described the massacre committed by Israeli forces on Monday [8 October] against civilian Palestinians and the holy sanctities as the most terrorist act of aggression.

The chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Front, PLF, said that the PLF will hit back against Israeli targets should Israel continue its act of aggression against the Palestinians.

Abu al-'Abbas told a press conference in Baghdad that the situation in occupied Palestine is getting complicated, with many civilians being killed every day. He added that necessary measures should be taken to protect Palestinians under occupation. Israeli police shot dead at least 34 Palestinians on Monday during protests against a planned march by extremist Jews who want to claim Jerusalem's Temple Mount at a site sacred to Muslims. Abu al-'Abbas said that the massacre is part of a planned Israeli role in the region, which in addition to the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and other countries, includes launching large-scale aggression against Jordan to establish a link with the military buildup in the Gulf region. He pointed out that the latest massacre should not be separated from a series of similar acts committed against Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He refers, in particular, to the killing of eight Palestinian civilians in the vicinity of Tel Aviv last May by an Israeli soldier, who was later claimed to be insane.

He said that the operations of the PLF are not aimed at civilian targets. The operations are legitimate for any people fighting for independence, he said. We hold the United States and Israel totally responsible of the massacre, Abu al-'Abbas said, adding that the Israeli annexation of the al-Quds Jerusalem in the early 1980s and the United States Congress approval of this move have encouraged the Zionists to commit such acts of aggression.

Abu al-'Abbas called on the United Nations to take necessary measures to protect the Palestinian people or we will take what we believe is appropriate, he said. We hope that the Security Council will move quickly and take speedy measures to denounce this aggression and secure the rights of the Palestinian people. There should be one scale to measure all things in the world. We hope that the United States beautifies its image by not using the veto. All Palestinians are asking Washington to have a just, sound, and unconditional implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Palestine.

What is happening now is that we are offering concessions without any positive results, the Palestinian leader said. He added that his Front will not stay indifferent towards the bloodbath in Palestine. We will react and find legitimate ways to defend our people. He expressed hope that his people would not be forced to react in the same manner and that the world community would be aware enough of the deterriorating conditions of Palestinians.

Abu al-'Abbas said that he is optimistic about the European Community's stand and that of France, in particular. He hailed President Saddam Husayn's peace initiative of 12 August to solve all Middle East problems. Abu al-'Abbas affirmed that it is their duty to stand with Iraq and give it all the support. Iraq had done all it could in supporting the Palestinian cause, and we have to do our share, he concluded.

Qaddumi on UN 'Procrastination'

JN1210073490 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The PLO Central Council is continuing its meetings in Tunis. Yesterday it issued a statement calling for strong and swift action to put an end to what it termed the terrorist Israeli acts against the Palestinian people, and to provide international protection for them.

Commenting on the present procrastination at the UN Security Council over the issuance of a resolution, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, told our radio:

[Begin Qaddumi recording] We hold the whole international group and the United States and Britain responsible for the procrastination in adopting decisive measures by the Security Council to send a committee to the occupied territories to investigate facts and submit a detailed report on ways and means of providing international protection for our people and the holy places. Thus we note that the United States, as usual, is obstructing the peace process in the region. [end recording]

In order to learn the PLO's opinion on the assertion that a settlement of the Palestine question should not be related to that of the Gulf crisis, colleague Kamal Tarabayh posed this question to Faruq Qaddumi, who responded:

[Begin Qaddumi recording] Regardless of this assertion, the crux of the Middle East crisis lies in the Arab-Israeli conflict which is spreading and erupting over several areas in the form of Arab disputes, as is the case in Lebanon, the Gulf, and other areas, or in the form of disputes with neighboring countries, as was the case with Iran. The main reason for this crisis is the Palestine question. It is this question which is creating these conditions because it remains unresolved and because anxiety and tension continue to accumulate in this region. If we want peace, this peace should begin in Palestine through resolution of the Palestine question so that normal relations, as well as peace and security in the region, will prevail. [end recording]

Condemned by PFLP-GC

JN0910210090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued a statement on the Zionist-American massacre that was committed against our Palestinian Arab people in the Jerusalem holy mosque. The statement says: The Zionist enemy continues to commit its Nazi massacres against our defenseless Palestinian people, who are only armed with their resolve and their faith in their right while the enemy depends, in continuing its crimes, on the support of the United States. The United States supplies it with weapons and provides it with political cover in international forums. The Zionist enemy continues to commit its massacres against our Palestinian Arab people, benefiting from the atmosphere of division, Arab silence, and the plans of liquidation and capitulation behind which pant those who dream about a settlement with the Zionist-U.S. enemy at the expense of Arab rights.

The PFLP-GC statement goes on to say: The Jerusalem holy mosque massacre, and before it the Al-Burayj and 'Uyun Qarah massacres, and all the other Zionist massacres against our Palestinian Arab people, confirm that the Zionist enemy has decided upon extermination and liquidation as the direct method to quell the valiant intifadah after the failure of all its previous security, political, and military attempts, exploiting the Arabs' preoccupation with matters other than the principal Arab cause.

With these massacres, the Zionist enemy is trying to gain time under the canopy of regional and international circumstances that ignore the Palestinian cause and the gravity of the state of affairs in Palestine, not to mention the atrocity of the incessant crimes against our people, holy places, and land; where massacres, Judaization, and deportation operations are taking place in the midst of the ever-increasing torrent of immigration.

The statement adds: Some Arab policies that deal with the Palestinian cause as a political and media card with which they trade in this or that field have also given the Zionist enemy broad opportunities to attain its objectives of pursuing its schemes to liquidate our people's intifadah.

The Jerusalem holy mosque massacre and the shedding of Palestinian blood unequivocally confirm that the Palestinian cause, irrespective of Arab, regional, and international developments and pressures, will remain the core of the conflict and the principal cause of our Arab nation. This cause should remain at the top of the Arabs' list of priorities. Enmity toward Zionism and confronting it should remain the only preoccupation of our nation and of all those who work for the freedom and liberation of the Arab nation.

We in the PFLP-GC affirm that supporting the Palestinian Arab people and defending the Palestinian cause is a sacred duty. At this stage, this means supporting and protecting the blessed popular intifadah.

Second, [as heard] the Palestinian cause will remain a cause that will continue to appeal to the consciences and goodwill of the masses, whether Arabs or Muslims, wherever there is a confrontation and where martyrdom will be sought in defense of the holy mosque and the land from which the Prophet ascended to Heaven.

Third, we in the PFLP-GC hold the United States responsible for participating in the continuous Zionist massacres against our people, whether through its material, military, or unceasing political support, in preventing the international community from condemning

Zionist Nazism. Victory will be the destiny of our people. The martyrs' blood will map the future of liberated Palestine and armed struggle will continue on the road to the liberation of the land and man.

'Arafat Sends 'Urgent' Messages

JN1010214390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Brother leader President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent urgent messages to the Italian, French, and British Governments on the bloody Zionist massacre in the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. Brother Abu Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], chief of the PLO Political Department, handed these messages to the ambassadors of Italy, France, and Britain accredited to Tunisia. [Words indistinct] brother leader President Abu-'Ammar also sent a message to King Hassan II of Morocco, in his capacity as the chairman of the Jerusalem Council affiliated with the Islamic Conference Organization, calling for holding an urgent meeting of the Committee to discuss the massacre in the Jerusalem holy mosque.

ALF Calls for UN Protection

JN0910204790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The Arab Liberation Front [ALF] has called on the UN Security Council to provide protection for the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine against the Zionist occupation forces' daily inhuman practices.

In a statement to INA today, an ALF information spokesman said the ALF Central Committee has followed with extreme concern and anxiety the ugly massacre committed by the occupation troops and the criminal gangs of settlers in the courtyard of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque. There, scores of martyrs from among our people fell, hundreds were wounded, and others arrested when they confronted with their chests the bullets of the enemy while defending the sanctity of their holy places against the attempts by gangs of Zionist settlers to desecrate them.

He added: While warning the Zionist entity of the gravity of persisting in its brutal crimes, the ALF warns that it and the Palestinian revolution forces will respond to the Zionists and their crimes in kind, and that its arm is not incapable of reaching the criminals and punishing them for their evil, barbaric acts.

In his statement, the spokesman said that yesterday's massacre was a clear and explicit declaration that the Zionist entity continues its inhuman practices and does not hesitate to intensify them, paying no attention to UN resolutions and defying all international charters and norms.

He said that the ALF asks the UN Security Council to take immediate and effective measures to deter the Zionists from committing their aggressive practices. He recalled the U.S. attempts to exploit this international body to peddle aggression against Iraq and the methods and speed with which the unjust resolutions were adopted against this militant country. Thus, he noted, the ALF says that deterring the Zionists and halting their aggression against our people should be the focus of international attention, and that this international body should not fall prey again to U.S. hegemony and aggressive arrogance, which has provided protection and cover for the Zionists for many years to carry out their crimes against our people through the use of vetoes to block international resolutions condemning Zionist aggressiveness and calling for the respect of our people's right to self-determination on their national soil.

The spokesman added that the UN Security Council is called upon now, more than ever before, to prove its credibility and legitimacy as an effective international organization at a time when major questions have been raised about its credibility and legitimacy following the hasty and unjust resolutions adopted against fraternal Iraq.

Concluding his statement to INA, the information spokesman said: While declaring that, the ALF urges our heroic people in the occupied homeland to continue their great revolution and intifadah and to escalate struggle and resistance to the rancorous enemy until it yields to our just demands and recognizes all our rights, including our right to self-determination and the establishment of our independent state with holy Jerusalem, which has been watered with the blood of our heroic martyrs, as its capital.

'Arafat Calls for Protection of Palestinians

JN0510140290 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Oct 90

[Text] Brother President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has urged the international community to move promptly to provide protection for the sons of our Palestinian people in the occupied territories who are being subjected to an escalation of brutal repression by the Zionist occupation forces. In a message to our Palestinian people on the Prophet's birthday anniversary, Brother Abu-'Ammar affirmed that the recent manifestations of consolidating national Palestinian unity have been the profound response to the occupiers and that the escalation of the intifadah has pushed it to the forefront of international interest. He reaffirmed that the intifadah is definitive proof that the Palestinian people have toppled the Shamir-Arens plan which was based on the illusion that the fascist occupiers can undermine the intifadah.

In his message, which was distributed by the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, Brother Abu-'Ammar said the escalation of the blessed intifadah proves that there is no choice but to respond to the Palestinian people's national rights and enhances the Palestinian leadership's confidence and faith in victory.

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians, Reaffirms Stance

JN0910185590 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Brothers, leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has addressed a message to our Palestinian masses on the occasion of the intifadah's entering its 35th month. He said in his message:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: [passage omitted]

O my brothers and beloved ones: When you set out to raise the banner of the homeland and face the fascists in al-Burayj camp, Janin, Shu'fat, Jamma'in, and indeed throughout our occupied territories, you were underscoring that the intifadah, which is now approaching its fourth year, is a one-way road toward victory and toward (?Jerusalem). Your (?determination) and sacrifices, O heroes, have forced the world to focus on the need to link and search for solutions to all the problems of the region. This was highlighted by President Saddam's initiative on 12 August 1990. Thus, the world community was put to a clear test: Either to use the same criteria in addressing crises and move carefully and enthusiastically to protect our people and enable them to gain their rights as it did with the Gulf crisis, or to underline—as some of its influential members, especially the United States have demonstrated—its lack of credibility, its hypocrisy, and its determination to turn the United Nations into an instrument to serve the hostile objectives of U.S. policy. [passage omitted]

O great knights, O sons of our struggling people: Successive developments in our region place it before (?major) and numerous prospects. The region is experiencing an extremely sensitive and serious stage. I am saying this—God bear witness—so that all Arabs will be aware of it. By the escalation of our intifadah, and by our clear and firm political position, we have reaffirmed the soundness of our policy regarding the need to resolve the Gulf crisis through a peaceful, political, and pan-Arab solution. This is clearly our policy. [Words indistinct] of an international umbrella, and by linking this crisis to the Palestine question and the other problems in the Middle East, including the Golan Heights and Lebanon.

Two months after the eruption of the Gulf crisis, many parties in the world are now repeating and emphasizing what we have said since the first day. Many countries are changing their tone and options, and adopting plans that we strongly and confidently proposed. There is the plan of President Mitterrand, the Soviet-European statement, the latest Palestinian-Soviet moves, President Bush's speech, the positive change in the (?Italian) position, the position of the British foreign secretary, and the positions of many other countries.

We have condemned and rejected the arrival of U.S. and foreign forces in the Arab region. This will continue to be our position as a Palestinian, Arab, and international liberation movement. Let this be clear. [Word indistinct] our revolutionary honor. The presence of these foreign forces means the beginning of a new era of colonialist hegemony over the Arab homeland at a time when all forms of colonialism have been eliminated. How can one accept this? Time has proved that our policy [words indistinct] is the realistic, honorable, logical, and knowledgeable one against the irresponsible policies that adopt or encourage the options of a disastrous war, destruction, blockade, and starvation, and that fail to take into slightest consideration the interests and future of our Arab peoples.

We renew our rejection of the foreign presence and designs in the region, and our condemnation of the war of starvation against our children in Iraq and of any harm to Iraq's power and people. The disaster will not affect Iraq alone, but also the entire Arab nation. We repeat and reassert that any Arab dispute must be resolved under the Arab umbrella, which can find a solution to the crisis in a manner that guarantees the sovereignty, dignity, and rights of all; a solution that constitutes the inception of a new Arab reality. And we stress the need to deal with all crises of the region in one context. The world community must allow and support this Arab option within internationally-accepted action to solve all the crises in the region. There is no room for talk about efforts to build a new world order here or there if this order ignores the just rights of peoples, foremost of which are the rights of our Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted] [end recording]

PLO's Khalaf Advocates Palestine, Gulf Linkage

LD1110203290 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1830 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, nom de guerre Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, by unidentified reporter in Iraq, date not given; Abu Iyad remarks in Arabic with superimposed Hungarian translation—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] A film crew from [Hungarian] Television has just returned home from Iraq with the sensational news that secret negotiations are taking place between the great powers and the countries concerned on a package plan for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

In the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's country, which has occupied Kuwait, preparations are still under way for war. However, there is increasingly frequent talk around the world about a political settlement. Abu-Iyad, the PLO's number two, held talks about this in Baghdad with the Iraqi president and with the Soviet delegation headed by Primakov. I asked him whether Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait, and when.

[Begin recording] [Abu Iyad] My conviction is that the warlike outcry will now quiet down and a political settlement will soon begin—perhaps not immediately, not within days.

[Reporter] This year?

[Abu Iyad] Yes, this year, perhaps within weeks.

[Reporter] What kind of solution are you now preparing?

[Abu Iyad] I would not like to go into details, but I will say that the essence of this solution is that it links the Middle East and the Palestinian question with the crisis that has broken out in the Gulf. However, this linkage is not mechanical. It means that the troops will not be withdrawn simultaneously, at one time, from here or there. First, Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait. At the same time, the great powers accept a commitment soon to convene a Middle East peace conference. This, in form, is not linked to the Gulf crisis, but is related to it in essence. In my view, this solution will satisfy all of the countries concerned in the region.

[Reporter] Thus, in accordance with such a political solution, Iraq must at first withdraw from Kuwait. Simultaneously, the sovereignty of the state of Kuwait will be restored. Then, Israel will carry out the UN resolutions and withdraw from the occupied areas.

[Abu Iyad] The PLO does not link an end to the occupation of Kuwait with Israeli withdrawal, so they should not say that we only deal with ourselves. I would not like it to become international practice for someone, after he has occupied a country, to be able to negotiate about another country.

[Reporter] Thus, according to the solution which is being prepared, Iraq must by all means withdraw from Kuwait.

[Abu Iyad] I am not saying that things should not be interlinked. This is a package plan, a bargain, an agreement. Iraq withdraws, but in exchange for what? That is the essence of the question. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad's Al-Tamimi on Baghdad Visit

JN0510121190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Oct 90 p 12

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis, has described Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as a man of history, symbolizing the spirit of challenge in the Arab nation.

At a news conference he held in Amman yesterday following his visit to Baghdad, al-Tamimi told Arab and foreign newsmen: I have found that President Saddam Husayn is confident of victory and aware of its secrets, and that he is facing developments calmly.

Al-Tamimi said the blessed Palestinian intifadah was the prelude to what is going on in Iraq, and asserted that throughout history Muslims have not triumphed because of their great numbers or equipment but because of God's support for us and our spirit of jihad and martyrdom. He said: Iraq does not harbor any thought of abandoning its annexation of Kuwait, because it is part of Iraq. Iraq is displeased with delegations that arrive to mediate on this issue.

Al-Tamimi ridiculed the Western calls for self-determination for the Kuwaitis, affirming that all Muslims must live in one state.

Shaykh al-Tamimi noted that the occupied Palestinian territory has stood by Iraq in its just battle and that his movement will observe a general strike in Jerusalem on 6 October in support of fraternal Iraq.

Al-Tamimi described Iraq-Iran relations as being as best as one could want, and described President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Iran as a failure. He said: The Iranian revolution's spiritual guide told President al-Asad that Iran's archenemy is not Iraq but Israel.

Shaykh al-Tamimi appealed to the parents of the American, British, and French soldiers who occupy the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf to prevent their sons from coming to wage a war from which the Europeans and Americans have nothing to gain. He asked: Why do these Western soldiers die for the sake of corrupt, ignorant, and wasteful men?

Al-Tamimi said that the new crusader invasion of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf is aimed at preventing our unity and resisting the Islamic awakening, adding that Israel, since it came into existence, has never sensed danger as it is sensing it now. He said: We can survive many defeats, but Israel will not be able to survive even one.

Affirming that the situation in the region is very serious, al-Tamimi asked: Why has the non-Muslim world gathered against Islam and the Muslims for the first time? He said the Russians and the Americans as well as the Japanese and the Europeans are firing from the same gun. He said the Europeans believe in, and are prompted by, the superior race theory, affirming that Hitler is not the only one who claims the superiority of the Germanic race. They believe that the white man is the master, said al-Tamimi, adding that the blacks in America are still suffering from racial discrimination.

Al-Tamimi said that Bush and Thatcher have revived in Muslims the spirit of jihad and martyrdom, and added that if war breaks out against Iraq we will fight a comprehensive war and ruthlessly transfer the battle to the heart of America and Europe, noting that he has forces to carry this out within Europe and America.

Asked about religious rulings by some Muslim 'ulema permitting invitations to foreigners to fight aggression and some other rulings considering the foreigners to be invaders who should be fought along with their supporters, al-Tamimi said that the permissible and impermissible are clear, and invoked the Koranic verse: Ye who believe, truly the pagans are unclean; so let them not after this year of theirs. He also said that five days before his death, the Messenger, peace be upon him, said: No two religions can coexist in the Arabian Peninsula.

Algeria

March to U.S. Embassy Supports Iraqi People

LD1110133490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpt] A popular march called for by the Algerian Committee for Support of the Iraqi People has begun in the capital. It set out from 1 May Square and is heading for the U.S. Embassy to denounce the starving of the Iraqi people and the attempt to bring Iraq to its knees. We are in contact with the radio unit at 1 May Square to hear about the atmosphere prevailing at the start of the march. Mohamed Shalloush. Good evening.

Good evening. Yes, a wide response manifested in the streets of the capital to the call issued by the National Committee for Support of the Iraqi People. Huge concentrations of citizens, independents, and members of parties and societies, came to take part in this huge march, which started as planned at 1300 from 1 May Square. It is now passing through Ali Mallah Street. The march raises two banners: The banner of peace, and the banner of condemnation. Peace: to stand up to the U.S. and Western campaign to promote the war option in the Gulf region, and Condemnation: of the intensive military and Western presence in the region, and also of some Arab regime's support for the policy of foreign aggression against the Arab nation. The organizers also aim with this initiative to make Arab and international public opinion feel the need to take a comprehensive look at the Middle East problem, which decrees, first, that a search for a solution to the Palestine problem—which is the essence of conflict in the region—should be effected. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Arrives, Meets Bendjedid on Palestinians

LD1010183590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Brother leader and president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon in Algiers met with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. The meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian arena in light of the ugly massacres committed by the occupation forces against the rights of our people's sons, who are steadfast on their occupied soil.

Brother leader and President Abu-'Ammar arrived in Algiers before noon today. His visit is part of a tour of a number of Arab capitals to acquaint Arab leaders with the latest developments in the Palestinian arena and the daily massacres to which our insurgent people are exposed, and also the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

'Arafat Statement on Meeting

LD1010204190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Excerpts] President Chadli Bendjedid had talks today with Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, at the presidential headquarters. During the meeting the president of the Republic in the name of the people and the government of Algeria voiced deep fraternal sympathy following the tragedy which has afflicted the Palestinian people. These people, the president said, deserved high praise for all the sacrifices they have been making to recover their freedom and protect the holy land which is very dear to all Muslims.

After expressing his displeasure at this savage brutality the president stressed to the PLO chairman and to the Palestinian people Algeria's resolve to mobilize all its energies so that the international community and in particular the Security Council shoulders its responsibilities in the face of Israel's excesses in the occupied territories and its refusal to implement UN resolutions for a just and lasting settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Following this meeting Yasir 'Arafat said this to our reporter Nasirah Bouzid:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] It gives me pleasure to have a good meeting like this with brother President Chadli Bendjedid especially during the big, grave, and tragic events to which the Islamic holy shrines—the first qiblah [direction in which Muslims pray] and the third holiest mosque are exposed. This was the main point in my discussion with Presdient Chadli Bendjedid. He informed us of Algeria's decisive stance. They will be moving on all Arab, Islamic, and international levels to confront this serious incident which sheds more and more light on the dimensions of the conspiracy. This was backed by the Israeli Government, the Israeli Army, the Israeli police and armed Israeli settlers. [passage omitted]

The Security Council is facing a test. Either it agrees to send international forces to protect the holy places—Islamic and Christian—and to protect the Palestinian people or it will be classified as a tool of the U.S. Administration. [end recording]

Yasir 'Arafat' left Algiers this evening. He was seen off Abdelaziz Belkhadem, speaker of the National People's Assembly.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Jerusalem Killings

LD1010144690 Algiers APS in English 1318 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, Oct (APS)—"All Algeria pays homage with pain and respect before the memory of the new martyrs of the Palestinian cause, innocent Palestinians who were the victims of the slaughter organized on the esplanade of the al-Aqsa mosque", a spokesman of the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared.

"It is a premeditated slaughter, which revolts the Arab and Muslim peoples and questions once again the international consciousness on the long list of crimes committed daily by the Israeli forces of occupation against the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland," added the statement which notes that "the very fact of accusing victims of the slaughter of al-Aqsa, of a so-called will to divert the attention from the Gulf crisis, is extreme cynicism".

"In truth, it added, the impunity of the enterprise of liquidation of the Palestnian people, is part of the inability of the Arab world to surmount its division and close its ranks for the defence of the holy Palestinian cause. It is also part of the fact that the Zionist leaders rely on the passivity or the helplessness of a part of the international community and have been made strong by complacency and the support of another part of this same community".

"Algeria calls on the Security Council to mobilize efforts and resources of the UN in order to assure urgently the protection of the Palestinian civilians and finally impose the implementation of the UN resolutions for a fair and lasting solution of the Palestinian question".

"At a time when the stress is put on the emergence of a new international political order, based on cooperation within the United Nations in favor of the right of states and peoples, and at a time when the United Nations are intensively trying to implement the resolutions related to the Gulf crisis, the (?tragedy of) al-Quds [Jerusalem] offers the UN Security Council the occasion to concretely show a common sincere and strong will to make prevail every where the respect of international law", the statement concluded.

Merbah Resigns From FLN Central Committee

LD0610144190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Interview with former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah by reporter Nasirah Bouzid at Merbah's home, in an unspecified city, on 6 October—live or recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Former Prime Minister Kasdi Merbah has announced his resignation from the National Liberation Front [FLN] Central Committee and the imminent creation of a political party. This was reported today by EL-DJOUMHOURIA, which appears in the western part of the country, in its front page interview to be published soon. According to Merbah, this party will be a progressive one and will bring together comrades of the late President Houari Boumedienne. To confirm this report, colleague Nasirah Bouzid went to the home of Kasdi Merbah and conducted the following interview with him, at the start of which he spoke about the issue of the resignation:

[Merbah] During the mujahidin regional conference of the fifth wilaya [province] EL-DJOUMHOURIYA interviewed me. Some of the questions were on the plan about which some people talk, that I want to form a party. Indeed, I seized the opportunity because for a long time I have been trying to talk in the press about several problems, but the press is censored. For instance, I tried to talk on the program "Transparance" and they did not even reply to me. I also tried to talk in HORIZON magazine, but its director refused. Consequently, I seized the opportunity presented to me by EL-DJOUMHOURIA in the form of an interview in order to talk about several issues, in addition to this question. Indeed, I replied concerning the issue of the resignation from the (FLN) Central Committee and said I will send a message concerning this resignation to the party secretary-general.

[Bouzid] So you have not yet resigned?

[Merbah] No, not officially, but in fact I have resigned from the Central Committee for many reasons: First, the party has been in daily decline for two years. The problems are numerous. There are many problems in the base because there is a current against the leadership at base level; also, there are problems at the level of the center, at the level of the Central Committee among its members. People do not have a good image of the FLN. The latest operation of what was termed as the modernizing of the party, to be completed in one and a half months—to recruit new members, purge the ranks, and elect new members at the levels of the cells, districts, and federations—all this cannot achieve results in one month.

Indeed, I did not see them take into consideration the opinions of some officials and consequently, there is an operation to sort out and impose leadership views, and I am opposed to this operation and was forced to hand in my resignation from the Central Committee.

I would like to achieve several things because, regarding the reforms under way in the country, I started them, but I began them on the basis of changing the economic field and providing all the opportunities for the national economic establishments to succeed. The implementation of these reforms today, however, gives opposite results. It gives negative results. We see prices rise every day. As the workers' official said, people used to go out with money in their pockets and bring home a bag of vegetables and fruit, but now they go out with a bag of money and return with vegetables and fruit in their pockets.

This unbelievable increase in prices leads to daily deterioration in the people's living conditions, a matter which harms the principle of social justice and those economic institutions, the results of which have been a total failure—i.e. their supply is not well organized and their output is falling.

And I would like to stress here that when I was the head of government in 1989, the GNP grew for the first time by three percent, although economic growth in 1986, 1987, and 1988 was negative. This year, however, it might fall by 10 percent. Therefore, as members of a given party [FLN] we cannot defend an economic program and economic reforms which have led to negative results and which the people oppose.

[Bouzid] Is it true that behind your resignation from the Central Committee is an intention to prepare for the formation of a new party?

[Merbah] I was asked the same question by an EL-DJOUMHOURIA reporter. I remember that I said then it was possible soon to announce the formation of a new party. We might organize a news conference to announce the birth of the new party. We might, however, announce its birth by other means, so citizens would know its program, its aims, and the persons who are behind it.

Egypt

Assembly Speaker Al-Mahjub Assassinated in Cairo

Interior Minister Comments

NC1210160290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has emphasized that security agencies are exerting their utmost efforts to arrest those responsible for today's treacherous attack which killed Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub and three of his bodyguards.

In a statement to reporters here today, Musa, whose face bore witness to the shock of the news, said the culprits will not escape justice and will be punished for their crime.

The minister added that he arrived at the scene of the incident at 1100, seven minutes after the attack. He found the glass of the rear window of al-Mahjub's car shattered by bullets, the car doors open, and gasoline leaking from the car as the car's fuel tank had been pierced by the bullets.

The interior minister said he found three bodies inside the car. Al-Mahjub's body was on the righthand side of the back seat with the body of Lieutenant Colonel 'Amr Sa'd al-Shirbini, from the People's Assembly guards, next to it. On the front seat was the body of a noncommissioned officer who was a personal bodyguard of al-Mahjub. The driver was not in the car.

The interior minister said that the other guards accompanying Dr. al-Mahjub were riding in a Peugeot 505 behind his car. They exchanged fire with the culprits who halted al-Mahjub's car with bullets from automatic rifles. One of these guards was consequently killed. The interior minister said that according to eyewitnesses, there were four culprits and they were riding on two Suzuki motorcycles. They divided themselves into two groups of two. The first group fired at the car, while the second group waited for them on their motorcycles, ready to flee when the attack was over. The interior minister added that the attackers, who were aged between 20 and 25, were not masked and had no distinguishing features. After the attack, he added, one of the culprits, unable to board the motorcycle, escaped through the underground garage of the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel and headed toward the Hilton Ramses Hotel. He was wearing beige trousers and a brown shirt and carrying an automatic rifle. Some citizens who happened to be on the scene tried to capture him, but he fired at them, wounding two people, and escaped toward the hotel.

Minister Musa said that according to eyewitnesses, the culprits were standing in front of the Semiramis Intercontinental Hotel and were concealing the automatic rifles they used in the incident behind newspapers. They were waiting for al-Mahjub's car, which came from the Qasr al-Nil bridge and then turned right to go either to the Meridien Hotel or the People's Assembly. This confirms that the criminals were aware of the route the car was going to take, he added. After attacking the car with automatic rifles, the cuprits rode their motorcycles along the Corniche road in the wrong direction, since this road is a one-way street to the al-Ma'adi suburb only. The interior minister said that security agencies are exerting efforts in several directions to arrest the culprits and unravel this criminal incident.

In the meantime, strict security measures were taken in the area that was the scene of the incident as well as in the neighboring areas. The interior minister issued instructions to tighten security at all exits, ports, and airports in the country and to carefully examine the documents of all travelers who may be suspected of carrying out the attack. Security was also tightened at embassies and key installations and around public figures.

Forensic experts examined the scene of the incident and the cars of Dr. al-Mahjub and of the accompanying guards. They seized the blanks and photographed the scene of the crime to determine how the culprits carried out their heinous crime.

Egyptian television's first channel reported the assassination of Dr. al-Mahjub in its 1300 news bulletin, which carried no other news. The second channel reported the details of the incident as reported by the interior minister, with a film clip from the scene of the incident.

The three persons who were killed with Dr. al-Mahjub in the attack are: Lieutenant Colonel 'Amr Sa'd al-Shirbini, who was sitting to the left of al-Mahjub; noncommissioned officer 'Abd-al-'Al Ramadan, who was sitting next to the driver; and bodyguard Kamal 'Abd-al-Muttalib, who was riding in the accompanying car. Two other police officers on duty in front of the hotel were also wounded in the attack.

[In a similar report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1434 GMT on 12 October adds: "The security services have found and defused two timed explosive devices and a hand grenade. They have also found a number of magazines full of bullets at the Cairo location where Dr. Rifat al-Mahjub was assassinated today."]

Presidential Statement Issued

NC1210145690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—The presidential office today denounced the heinous crime which resulted in the death of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. The presidential office issued the following statement:

Egypt has been alarmed by a heinous crime which claimed the life of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, who dedicated his life to the service of his homeland. Dr. al-Mahjub was killed by the evildoers while he was carrying out his national duty with peerless valor, heroic will, and unequaled fidelity to rights and principles.

This treacherous attack against one of the masters of law, economics, and legislation in Egypt and the entire Arab world can never erase the bright pages which recorded the great achievements and strenuous efforts of Dr. al-Mahjub in all the posts he held. He presented a unique example of dedication to the service of the homeland and of determination to sacrifice for the sake of his country and nation.

This detestable crime, which stooped to the lowest depths of treachery and cowardice, can never affect our great people's determination to continue to give for the sake of God and the homeland and to protect the sanctities of the Arab and Muslim nations and safeguard their vital interests. It will never dissuade a people with such a great historic record from continuing to engage in the fiercest battles and to face the most powerful challenges, nor will it shake the pillars of safety and stability in the corners of the safe valley.

The name of Rif'at al-Mahjub will always represent a landmark in the history of Egyptian patriotism in view of his great accomplishments and achievements. His virtues will always be a source of grace for his soul, and the gratitude of the people, his pupils, and his colleagues will always be associated with his name along the road of struggle.

May the Almighty have mercy on him and on the innocent policemen who lost their lives with him—may their souls rest in heaven—and compensate Egypt for their loss.

"To the righteous soul will be said: O, thou soul in complete rest and satisfaction, come back to thy lord, well pleased and well-pleasing unto Him. Enter thou, then, among my devotees. Yea, enter thou my heaven." [Koranic verse] In truth has the Almighty spoken.

Ghali Criticizes Israeli Statement on Security

NC0910135590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the statement made by the Israeli cabinet's adviser on counterterrorism contains fallacies and does not reflect the real situation in Egypt. Dr. Ghali added that the Israelis know well the extent of stability and security in Egypt.

The Israeli official made a statement in which he warned Israelis against visiting Egypt for the time being.

Mubarak, Interior Minister Discuss Terrorism

JN0510144390 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] The AL-AHRAM reporter has learned that President Husni Mubarak yesterday discussed with Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa security measures that various police and security units have taken to confront the threats reported by news agencies that Iraqi authorities are planning to carry out terrorist and sabotage operations inside Arab countries that have not supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and that Iraqi authorities have sought the help of well-known terrorists such as Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and others to carry out these terrorist operations.

The minister presented to the president the plans that the security units are implementing to protect Egypt's borders and secure its outlets against any attempts at infiltration by terrorists in a manner that will neither obstruct the flow of arrivals in Egypt nor undermine the speedy completion of their arrival formalities.

Palestinians Asked To Shun Disruptive Activities

NC0610134790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1126 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian Embassy in in the Arab Republic of Egypt has called on Palestinians residing in Egypt to be constantly and fully alert to attempts to embroil them in activities to disrupt Egypt's security and stability.

The embassy urged them to remain as they have always been, sincere and appreciative of the hospitality of the fraternal Egyptian people and their conscientious and prudent leadership.

In its statement, the Palestinian Embassy asked Palestinians not to afford any opportunity to those who seek to strike at the close and fraternal relations [between Egyptians and Palestinians] and to harm the hospitality which reflects the standing of the Palestinian people in Egypt and in the world.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has made a statement. He said: Palestinians residing in Egypt, who share the Egyptian Government's and people's celebration of the glorious October anniversary, consider that this great event has proved the Arab fighter's ability to confront and defeat invasions and to carry out heroic actions and establish peace from a position of strength. This reflects Egypt's leading and civilized position in the world.

He said: Egypt will always remain the best support of our people and their cause regardless of the temporary clouds appearing in our Arab sky. He added: In Egypt we thank His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for his call to his Palestinian sons now in Egypt to remain here. We join him in the call on all Palestinians to be vigilant and wary of attempts by certain organizations not belonging to the Palestinian people or their pure national institutions to shake Arab Egypt's stability and security.

Ambassador Sa'id Kamal said: I also demand that the PLO's security organs enhance their preparedness to the utmost degree to thwart the agents and tools who wish to distort the reputation and status of the sons of Palestine in Egypt and elsewhere.

The Palestinian ambassador to Cairo emphasized the PLO's full concern for Egypt's security and stability. He said the PLO is also concerned with maintaining the gains made by the Palestinian people and their indomitable intifadah.

Ambassador Sa'id Kamal urged vigilance vis-a-vis the attempts that are being made to exploit the current atmosphere resulting from the Gulf crisis to create a general feeling of hostility toward our people and their leadership. He said: Our people have suffered enough everywhere. One can no longer be silent about those saboteurs who do not realize the consequences of their actions. He noted that the PLO carried out its national duty in Lebanon by purging the country of leaders of sedition and terrorism.

Interior Minister on Detained Palestinians, Iraqis

NC1110200390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1902 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] London, 11 Oct (MENA)—Egyptian Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stated that the Iraqis and Palestinians who were arrested last week have confessed that they came to Egypt on the instructions of certain groups and with the aim of attacking a number of Egyptian public figures and carrying out acts of sabotage in tourist areas.

In an interview with the BBC, the interior minister announced that a very large quantity of automatic weapons, hand grenades, and explosives has been seized.

The interior minister asserted that there is no coordination or links between the groups that have been arrested and extremist groups in Egypt. He also denied that the arrest of Palestinians will adversely affect the relationship between Egypt and the PLO. He said that Egypt has supported the Palestinian cause since 1948 and no other country has suffered as much in defending it.

Terrorists Admit Working for Iraqi Ba'th Party

PM0510103890 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Sep 90 pp 1-2

[Report by Wajdi Zayn-al-Din: "Iraqi Ba'th Party Terrorists In Cairo"]

[Text] Security sources have confirmed that seven Palestinians carrying Jordanian passports were arrested while trying to distribute leaflets in the 'Ayn Shams area of Cairo. The leaflets incite hatred against the Egyptian regime and urge people to support Iraq's position and to attack the Gulf leaders.

Security sources confirmed that the Palestinians entered the country after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The State Security Investigation authorities have obtained grave news about the terrorist scheme, which targets Arab capitals including Cairo.

The three Palestinians and two Iraqis arrested recently have made exciting and serious confessions. The terrorist group emphasized that it was working for the Iraqi Ba'th Party and revealed the existence of an Iraqi-Palestinian scheme to undermine security and assassinate politicians in Arab states. The terrorists also emphasized that the scheme is led by George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and that Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was involved in planning the scheme. The terrorists also emphasized that the scenario for the terrorist scheme was drawn up in Amman recently.

Authoritative security sources have emphasized that the Egyptian Interior Ministry has raised its alert to the maximum level in order to confront any attempt to undermine security and prevent terrorist elements from infiltrating the country.

The sources quoted the terrorists as saying that they intended to carry out terrorist acts in Cairo, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and some Gulf states. State Security Investigation interrogations have revealed the terrorist group's intention to assassinate Egyptian journalists and politicians because of their opposition to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. AL-WAFD was the first newspaper to publish the details of the terrorists' arrest a week ago. AL-WAFD revealed that they were working for a terrorist group targeting several Arab capitals.

Paper Criticizes U.S. Response to Al-Aqsa

PM1110140390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p 1

[Editorial by Jamal Badawi: "Al-Aqsa Mosque Massacre a Difficult Test for the United States"]

[Text] The U.S. call on Israel to exercise self-restraint after the ugly crime committed by the Israelis at al-Aqsa Mosque, in which over 32 people were killed and 1,000 were injured, is not enough. The call for self-restraint is a negative, impotent move. It is tantamount to urging the aggressor to stop his acts of repression without addressing the crime itself and without punishing the aggressor for the blood he has shed, the lives he has taken, and the religious sanctities he has violated.

The massacre committed by the Israelis at the holy mosque was too ugly to be met with mere statements of condemnation. It must be met with a response equal to the magnitude of the massacre, so that Israel understands that it is not free to attack unarmed Palestinians and Islamic holy places. The punishment must come from the party which has the power to deter and discipline Israel. That party is the United States. Any other party could only express anger and denunciation, or threaten to burn half of Israel, and time has proved that these threats are nothing but bubbles of air with an abhorrent color, taste, and smell.

The eyes of the international community are now turned toward the United States to see what it will do about the Israeli crime. Will it make a statement frankly condemning the aggression, or will it issue a feeble statement urging "all parties" to exercise self-restraint, thus equating the wrongdoer with the wronged?

The al-Aqsa Mosque incident puts the international community to a difficult test that will determine the credibility of the now-widespread claim that the world is moving towards a new order based on respect for international legitimacy and for the right of self-determination, noninterference in others' internal affairs, and prevention of aggression against helpless people. It will be a difficult test for U.S. President Bush, who leads an ideological trend aspiring to a new future for the world, having overcome the phase of international conflict and cold war between the East and the West and seeking to solve chronic problems, especially the Palestinian problem.

All that is now under careful scrutiny. We shall see if the world community deals in double standards and if the United States has two scales for the same crime.

We shall see the U.S. movement within the international community and see whether its task is to prevent injustice to small states and weak nations or to protect Israel from any punishment and encourage it to commit more massacres.

Forces Commander Bilal Says Mission Defensive

JN1210081090 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 8 Oct 90 pp 1, 17

[Report by Jamal Kamal]

[Text] Hafar al-Batin—Staff Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal, commander of the Egyptian forces on Saudi territory, has denied that an Egyptian armored division has arrived in Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia now number 14,000 men from the shock troop units and a combat formation from the Third Armored-Infantry Division, supported by armored units and air defense, artillery, chemical warfare, and military engineer battalions.

In statements to AL-KHALIJ, the commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia declined to comment on whether Egypt will station Air Force personnel or aircraft on Saudi territory to defend Egyptian forces when the operations begin. He said this will depend on the course of operations.

He said that he and his troops hope the problem will be resolved peacefully and that he will not have to raise his arms against Iraqi arms. He stressed that with their current resources, abilities, and training level, the Egyptian forces are capable of fulfilling the tasks they are entrusted with in the section assigned to them.

He added that his troops have managed to overcome the desert problems—heat and sand—especially since they are not strange to our forces, which have fought in Yemen and Sinai. He stressed that his troops have protective means against the missile and chemical attacks, which will limit their effects.

Regarding the human losses which Egyptian forces may suffer if they absorb a first strike, Maj. Gen. Bilal said that modern warfare does not know the concept of first strike, because there are methods and resources to tell us when the "enemy" begins moving his troops, and in what direction.

On whether this means that Egyptian forces will not take part in any operations aiming at liberating Kuwait, he said: We are present here within the framework of an operation to defend Saudi Arabia. He pointed out that Egyptian forces are not mercenaries, but are present in Saudi Arabia for a specific task in view of the Egyptian political and military leadership's conviction that sending Egyptian troops to Saudi Arabia is relevant to national security.

He said that Egyptian troops are under the command of Saudi forces and are coordinating with them, and that Saudi Arabia has pledged to provide air defense and early warning capability for the Arab forces. He pointed out that, so far, there is absolutely no problem regarding the command and control of forces, because all Arab forces are under Saudi command.

Asked whether Iraqi troops, with their positions and armaments, are able to launch an offense against Saudi Arabia, Maj. Gen. Bilal said: We hope the problem will be resolved peacefully. Our job is to deal with events as they occur. There are no dangerous weapons that will prompt any party to stage an offensive operation, as long as the other forces are trained to face these weapons.

Reportedly Dismissed

JN1210081590 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 11 Oct 90 pp 24, 23

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has instructed his defense minister to dismiss the commander of the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia from his post for making statements conflicting with Egypt's policy on the Gulf crisis.

These sources added that President Mubarak has personally decided to choose one of the "faithful" commanders to assume command responsibilities.

Major General Muhammad 'Ali Bilal had earlier stated that the Egyptian forces in Saudi Arabia would not take part in any offensive against Iraq, and said his forces' main goal is to reinforce Saudi Arabia's defensive capabilities and protect its border against any aggression.

Al-Baz Rejects Linking Gulf, Palestinian Issue

NC1010145190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, 10 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has emphasized the need for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, noninterference in Kuwait's domestic affairs, and restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. This will result in the immediate withdrawal of foriegn forces from the region. In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR published today, al-Baz denied that there was a diplomatic initiative to resolve the Gulf crisis. He rejected linking an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to a settlement of the Palestinian issue, saying that such linkage makes the rift in Arab ranks dependent on Israel and creates an opportunity for Israel to demand that a settlement take Israeli interests in the region into consideration. Al-Baz asserted that no Arab country would agree to be a spearhead against Iraq.

On the situation in Lebanon, al-Baz stressed Egypt's support for Lebanese legitimacy and expressed optimism about the possibility of resolving the Lebanese crisis. He underlined that Egypt and the Arab countries do not want the Lebanese situation to return to square one. He advised General Michel 'Awn to show understanding of the Lebanese people's urgent need for a halt to the bloodshed. He called on him to participate in a solution, noting that the goal is to save Lebanon and the Arab region from a secret game that is using events in Lebanon to strike at and obliterate Lebanon in order to balkanize the region.

Abu-Talib Calls for Pan-Arab Security System

NC0510180290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1655 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stated that the October War anniversary this year comes amid developments that dictate important challenges for the Armed Forces. The basic challenge is the need to maintain enough troops to defend the homeland, its rights, and its interests outside the homeland, regardless of the policy of detente in the world.

In statements to UKTUBAR magazine in its issue to be published on 7 October, Gen. Abu-Talib said that another challenge is the need for the Armed Forces always to be prepared for what the needs of the international community in terms of implementing military measures, whether to defend against any threat or to emphasize that aggression of all kinds is rejected, at a time when the world seeks to resolve all problems peacefully.

Gen. Abu-Talib noted that among the challenges is the need to establish a pan-Arab security system, despite the high cost that some might think such a system could entail because it was proved that it would be less than the cost of confronting unexpected threats.

The defense minister stressed that these challenges do not face only Egypt; several countries in the Third World and in the advanced world also face the same challenges. He added that despite the changes taking place in the world, whether in Eastern Europe or in the Gulf, it has been proven that Middle East security cannot be separated from international security, whereas before, it was almost a commonly-held view that events in Europe had downgraded the precedence of the Middle East problems.

Regarding the role that military command could play in political decisionmaking, the defense minister said that it is the political leadership that entrusts the military command with a mission. The role of the Armed Forces and of the military command together with the possible consequences and available resources are all taken into consideration when the political decision is made.

Interior Minister Announces Referendum Results

NC1210143790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has announced that 94.34 percent of the voters agreed on the dissolution of the People's Assembly during the referendum held yesterday. This was announced at a press conference the interior minister held today.

The minister said security and discipline prevailed throughout the referendum process. The voters exercised their full rights freely in 23,467 local polling stations and 283 general stations under the direct supervision of 1,886 members of the judicial bodies.

The minister said a total of 16,273,616 citizens were eligible to vote, and 9,529,142 did so. Of those, 9,359,656 votes were valid and 169,486 votes were void.

A total of 8,829,606 voted for the dissolution, while 530,050 voted against. Voter attendance reached 58.56 percent. The percentage of all voters who voted for dissolving the People's Assembly reached 92.66 percent, while 5.56 percent voted against the dissolution.

Of the valid votes, those who voted for dissolving the Assembly totaled 94.34 percent, while those who voted against totaled 5.66 percent.

Sudan

Official U.S. Statement Sought on Wheat Shipment

EA1110144590 Khartoum SUNA in English 0908 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 11 Oct (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government yesterday called on the U.S. Government to provide an official statement for the abrupt diversion of a ship carrying the first consignment of wheat contracted with the U.S. Agency [U.S. AID] from Port Sudan to Djibouti. A statement issued by the Ministry of Commerce said the Ministry was informed that the ship had changed its direction and sailed to Djibouti after it had entered the Sudanese coastal waters and after all preparations had been made to unload it.

The statement pointed out that when the authorities contacted the U.S. AID office here they said that they did not receive any information from Washington on the matter "except that a Sudanese official is currently in Washington conducting negotiations on the subject." The statement said "Sudan is still waiting for an official statement on the matter so that its relations with the U.S.A. will be based on clarity and mutual understanding."

Former Army Commander Ahmad Accused of Treason

NC0610202690 Cairo MENA in English 1943 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, Oct 6 (MENA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Lt. General 'Umar al-Bashir accused today former Army commander Lt. General Fathi Ahmad of treason after he had joined the rebels last week.

He said, in statements upon his return from New York today, that the deposed general was contacting the south Sudan rebels when he was still in actual service, and that the meetings of Army commanders were reported to the rebels half an hour after they ended.

Issues Press Statement

EA0710144590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Oct 90

["Text" of press statement released by the "legitimate High Commamd of the Sudanese Armed Forces" signed by General Fathi Ahmad Ali, "commander in chief"—date, place not given]

[Text] From the legitimate military command of the Sudanese Armed Forces to all branches, general headquarters, corps units, military areas and training centers of the Armed Forces, police forces, Sudan security, prison forces, Ranger Guards, and fire brigades. Fellow commanding officers, NCO's, and officers in the operating units and other forces: Our systematic method has always been to address you frankly on all issues of concern because we believe in collective leadership and have confidence in your nationalist sense and your ability to distinguish between right and wrong, truth and lie. Today, as Sudan passes through a dangerous phase of its history, we decided to address you following our constitutional duties, not seeking personal gains or ambition. We want to appeal to you to side only with right and justice and (?speak through) your commitment toward the country.

Throughout its long and heroic history, the Sudanese nationalist movement has proudly recorded the leading role taken by the Armed Forces in siding with the Sudanese people, defending their cause, and maintaining the Constitution and legitimacy. This was due to the nationalist character and behavior of our Armed Forces, which are the closest to the apex and noble values of our people. In April 1985, the Sudanese people rose in a genuine national consensus against repression and dictatorship, rejecting at the same time exploitation of religion for personal and political ends, and movitated by a genuine desire for peace, democracy, stability, and honorable living. These objectives have crystallized in the democratic role in a number of principles, such as peaceful dialogue instead of war; and political, religious, and cultural diversity instead of hegemony and dictatorship.

However, complicated issues and political disagreement prevented the translation of these goals into real life in the desired way. The military command at that time was most concerned with maintaining the unity and integrity of the forces, explaining the pending dangers to Sudan's national security, risks to military (?camps), and penetration of the Army by political parties. We were also advocating our total commitment to the interests of the people and the protection of their democratic choice and Constitution so that the Armed Forces would apply themselves to the discharge of their fundamental duties and the advancement of their military skills.

It is to be recalled that the country, before the Armed Forces memorandum of February 1989, was in desperate need of a high degree of unity and consensus to meet the enormous challenges it was facing. Hence, the high command of the Armed Forces moved to assert its commitment to its responsibilities in consistency with the provisions of the Constitution and the national charter. We took the initiative of alerting the government and the people to the perilous situation the country was facing, the serious challenges to Sudanese national security, and the real need for all national forces to unite their ranks and bury their differences and correct the direction of our march with all integrity and sincerity so we could close the door to the adventurers, conspirators, and power seekers. Such was the main essence of the Armed Forces memorandum of February 1989.

In the meeting of February 1989, all the commanders of the corps, divisions, and units agreed to reject the notion of a military coup and reaffirmed their commitment to the protection of the democratic system and Constitution, taking an oath to act to that effect. Moreover, they delegated the commander in chief and other members of the high command to take all necessary measures to implement the contents of the memorandum with the aim of protecting interests of the country as well as the interests of the Armed forces. Those commanders renewed their oath to implement the contents of the memorandum.

The National Islamic Front [NIF], frightened by the sophisticated national orientation of the Armed Forces to close the door to false utterances and pretensions, and having a secret plan for use to take power, rushed to mastermind that coup of 30 June 1989 by using machinations, deception, bribes, and corruption. In that attempt, it utilized all its agents, civil servants, and its own clandestine militias. By so doing, the NIF committed the greatest crime in Sudanese contemporary history. It staged a flagrant rebellion against the legitimate government. It also persisted in applying the most unscrupulous tactics to falsify the will and aspirations of the Sudanese people and their Armed Forces in the process and, with its damaging actions, the NIF became a fierce threat to the security of the Sudan, its national unity, and the entire nation.

The peace which we were very close to achieving on 29 June 1989 has become very remote because of the opening and deepening of all the wounds and the fueling of the war by the junta. The new regime has opted for war and persecution as a means of settling political differences, getting rid in the process, of the nationalist elements in the Army and other security forces so as to secure, at the end of the day, the separation of the north from southern Sudan.

To that purpose the regime adopted a policy of sending all the nationalist elements within the ranks of officers and NCO's to the endless and futile war in the south. This was done at a time when the regime was unable to provide these forces with the minimum requirements for war, and at a time when it proved incapable of securing a settlement to the problem because of its lack of credibility.

The criminal plot which was perpetrated on the 30th June 1989 in the Armed Forces institution is an unforgettable crime against our country and its Armed Forces. This plot aimed at depriving the Armed Forces of all its qualified leadership and experienced personnel in all ranks, in order to replace them with the militias and cadres of the NIF. These actions are continuing in a systematic manner as the list of officers purged or prematurely retired has reached about 1,000 officers and more than that figure within the ranks of the NCO's. This is not to mention those officers and NCO's who are languishing in prison or those who have been victims of summary execution without regard to military regulations or established military traditions. Such devastating and damaging acts are succinctly continuing not only in the ranks of the Armed Forces but in the ranks of the security forces such as the police and the prison corps, who are bearing the burden of maintaining law and order in the country. These officers in the police and the prison corps have taken heroic stands that will be glorified by the Sudanese people and history.

Dear brothers, the same criminal plot is being directed at the role of the Armed Forces in the Arab and African arenas with the aim of using these forces for political and regional aspirations. These attempts were manifested in the junta's opportunistic policy towards the Gulf crisis. The regime has failed to condemn Iraqi aggression against the sisterly State of Kuwait and support calls for Iraq's immediate withdrawal and the return of the legitimate government. The regime has opted not to join others in defending the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against external threats. It has also failed to dispatch troops to join other Arab and Islamic countries to defend Islamic holy places or to support other sisterly Gulf countries. Such acts by the regime are in contradiction to Sudanese policies since independence.

The real orientation of the Sudanese people and their Armed Forces has remained firm in support of Arab rights, international legitimacy, peace, and solidarity. The Sudanese Armed Forces have a history of supporting legitimacy and maintaining peace in the Arab and African arenas and in the world at large. We in the Armed Forces strongly reject any attempt to use Sudan as a dagger directed at the back of the sisterly State of Kuwait or to use our forces as a tool to threaten the security of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or African, Islamic, or a neighbourly country. We equally reject that the Sudan become a base for the exportation of terrorism, and in this connection we reject that Sudan pose a threat to the unity and territorial integrity of neighboring Ethiopia. We equally reject any attempt to put the nationalist and the pan-Arab or pan-African orientation of our Armed Forces in any doubt.

The ruling junta is trying assiduously to falsify the impressive history of the Sudanese people and tarnish the image of its Armed Forces and its historic and nationalistic role. The regime aims to demolish that robust establishment built by our national leaders since the colonial era and developed by loyal officers through a number of generations. For the preservation of such an establishment, blood, sweat, and souls were contributed until it became a well-established institution playing a pioneering role in the evolution of the country. Can we leave all that to a small, (?stray), and corrupted group?

Dear brothers, the regime which is deceivingly ruling the country in the name of the Armed Forces has proved totally unable to manage the affairs of the country. This was evident in its internal and foreign policy. Such failure is to be attributed to the nature of the regime, which knows nothing but repression, injustice, and degradation of its people. It is a regime that specializes in terrorism and the lawless use of force. Such attitudes have led a sizable number of the Sudanese masses to seek refuge in a number of countries abroad. In a period of one year, Sudan has become entirely isolated politically, economically, and militarily. The hardships of day-to-day living have reached unbearable levels. Corruption, misappropriation, bribery, and economic collapse have reached an unprecented level, especially as the nasty war in the country continues unabated. Issues have become increasingly complicated, and famine seems to be looming on the horizons. There is no savior from these miseries except you, the members of the Armed Forces. Silence and passiveness would be a crime against our country. History will not forgive us if we fail to discharge our responsibility.

Dear brothers: We live in a world that is witnessing new trends in the relations between peoples and states. They are trends that advocate greater democracy, a higher degree of liberty, popular participation in development, solidarity, and cooperation; and respect for the rule of law, commitment to values and principles, and respect for international legitimacy. These are trends which call for serious work to secure viable solutions for the difficult and complicated political, economic, and social issues confronting our country. Gone are the days of autocratic rulers, the single party, and the single point of view. Multiparty systems and democracy is our path to peace, and peace leads to security and stability, which are prerequisites for real development in our country. We reject both military and civilian dictatorships. We reject the misuse of Islam for cheap political ends.

The history of the NIF is known to everybody. It is a fascist organization exploiting religion for its own ends and is obsessed with devastating ambitions, the consequences which are known to all of you and the world at large. All the masks have fallen off. Right and wrong have become crystal clear. He who claims the course of salvation of the country and application of the laws of Allah cannot give himself the right to spy on the people in their houses, in their offices, and in the streets, violating basic human rights. Such a savior cannot be the one who himself excels in applying unprecedented methods of repression, tyranny, and injustice, and continues to fill prisons with national elements, both civilian and military, from all sectors. Such a savior cannot be the one who applies the most inhuman types of torture on prisoners, and is definitely not the one who enjoys shedding the blood of innocent military and civilian people and physically liquidating them in the most abhorrent manner during the holy month in violation of all values and traditions of our Islamic religion and all recognized norms and values.

Such a savior cannot be the one who sets out to destroy all the constitutional institutions and related basic infrastructures, or the one who uses food and famine as a weapon against its own people. Those who advocate the implementation of Islamic sharia [law] cannot be expected to encourage aggression against innocent people or to refuse to answer calls for the defense of the holy places in Mecca and Medina. They also cannot be expected to fail to support the rights of the aggrieved or to threaten the security of sisterly and neighboring countries.

The Armed Forces, as an original and active participant in the National Democratic Forum, have decided, through their legitimate leadership, to announce as of this moment their active work to relieve our country from the aggressive military minority which seized power. We move with a view to achieving and implementing all the objectives of the national charter. Dear brothers, in accordance with this, we confirm the following:

First, we reject: 1) any autocratic rule, be it military or civilian; 2) any rebellion against legitimacy, whatever the motives; 3) exploitation of the name of the Armed Forces or its use as a tool of the Islamic national rule or of the rule of any other party; 4) unjust moves to dismiss or retire members of the Armed Forces with a view to replacing them with NIF militia.

Second, the objectives we aim to achieve are as follows: 1) to side with the people and to work with the other nationalist forces for the return of democratic life to Sudan in accordance with the National Democratic Forum charter; 2) to work for an end to the war in our country, the achievement of peace, and the convening of the constitutional conference in an atmosphere conducive to its success; 3) to protect the independence and national character of our Armed Forces, rebuilding and strengthening them to conduct their basic duty in defending the country, protecting its independence and democracy.

Brothers and commanders [as heard] in arms: The legitimate military high command of your Armed Forces call on you, in the name of the Constitution, in accordance with your oath of allegiance to legitimacy and your commitment to the charter for the defense of democracy, and in the name of the irrevocable oath taken by all commanders of the Armed Forces on 22 February 1989, to unite your ranks and concentrate all your efforts to carry out one concerted operation code-named I, the Sudan, to topple this murderous, corrupt, ugly, and failure [as heard] regime. The aim would be to restore to the Sudanese people their integrity and dignity, and to the Armed Forces and other security forces their glorious and historic role. At the same time we strive to protect our national unity; exercise our right to freedom and democracy; achieve justice, peace in our country; and catch up with the other countries and nations in their quest for stability and progress. We pray to God to bless our efforts along the path of justice, right, and goodness, and enable us to achieve victory against our common enemy.

For the legitimate high command of the Sudanese Armed Forces,

Signed by: General Fathi Ahmad Ali, commander in chief.

Tunisia

Cabinet Condemns Israel on Al-Aqsa Shootings

LD1110015190 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Following the appalling massacre committed by the Israeli occupation forces on 8 October in Jerusalem, the cabinet, which met yesterday under the supervision of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, reviewed the grave situation in the occupied Arab territories in general, and in Jerusalem in particular.

The head of state reiterated the praise of the bravery of the Palestinian people in their struggle against and confrontation of the violations of the Islamic sanctities, as they confronted once before the violations of the Christian sanctities in Jerusalem.

The head of state called on the UN Security Council to adopt all the immediate practical measures to deter Israel and to make it end its defiance and oppression of the brave Palestinian intifadah and its disregard of international laws and resolutions.

He pointed out that this would give the UN credibility and power in dealing with all the issues and would make it truly a source of international legitimacy and guarantor of peace and security in the world.

The cabinet stressed Tunisia's commitment to work toward the restoration of harmony among the Arab brothers and of the solidarity of their efforts within the Arab League again to deal with all problems within the context of frank, unbiased consultations and for the benefit of all Arab interests and issues of destiny, with the Palestinian issue at the forefront.

Bahrain

Saudi Army Commander Arrives on Visit

JN1110115090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, 11 Oct (WAKH)—Staff Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, commander of the joint forces and the theater of operations in Saudi Arabia, has arrived on a visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the Saudi official will hold talks on the latest developments in the Gulf arena. He will also discuss aspects of military cooperation between the two countries.

He was received on arrival by Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, chief of staff of the Bahrain Defense Force; Dr. Ghazi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Qusaybi, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Bahrain; and a number of Bahrain Defense Force officers.

Meets With Amir

JN1110180790 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 11 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah received here this evening Commander of the Joint Forces and Operations scene [as received] in Saudi Arabia Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud currently visiting Bahrain.

The audience was attended by the Crown Prince and Commander-in-Chief of the BDF [Bahrain Defense Force] Shaykh Hamad Ibn-'Isa Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Defence Minister and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the BDF Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, head of the Crown Prince's Office Shaykh Khalid Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah, BDF Chief of Staff Brigadier General Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, the Saudi Ambassador to the state Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi and Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence and Security Brig. Gen. Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah.

Amir Receives Czech Envoy, Havel Message

JN1110180390 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Manama, Oct 11 (GNA) H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia dealing with the current developments in the region and bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Dr. Richard Wagner, advisor to the Czech president, during his meeting with the H.H. Amir here today.

Kuwait

Ambassador on Conditions for Talks With Iraq

AU1210104790 Vienna KURIER in German 12 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abdallah al-Awadi, Kuwaiti ambassador to Austria, by Otto Klambauer; place and date not given: "We Negotiate When the Iraqis Withdraw From Kuwait"]

[Text]

On Kuwait's Positions

Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait and our legitimate government must return to Kuwait—then we are even prepared to enter into negotiations with Iraq. But we will not negotiate as long as Iraqi troops are in our country.

On the Chance of Iraqi's Withdrawal

The Iraqis are really robbing everything in Kuwait—even the traffic lights! This would permit the conclusion that they are preparing to stay for a long time; who destroys everything if he wants to stay? On the other hand, Baghdad is taking an increasing number of Iraqis to Kuwait, apparently to pass them off as Kuwaitis—for example, in elections.

On Saddam Husayn

This man made a major miscalculation: He did not realize new world politics—reconciliation between East and West. Instead of it, he wanted—again—to play East and West off against each other, this failed.

On PLO Leader 'Arafat's Alliance With Iraq

We always backed the Palestinians—the Palestinian problem was and is one of our main concerns. Now we have difficulties with various persons, but not with our support for the Palestinians. We do not care about their leader.

On the Kuwaitis' Resistance

Saddam Husayn believed that the Kuwaiti opposition would join him. But not a single Kuwaiti collaborated with Baghdad!

On Future Prospects

First of all, a collective security system is required for our region. And the next Iraqi Government must be democratic. In the past 10 years, Baghdad invested $100 billion in armaments.

Foreign Minister Urges Protection of Palestinians

LD0910195190 London KUNA in Arabic 1317 GMT 9 Oct 90

["Kuwaiti Foreign Minister's Address to UN Security Council"—KUNA headline]

[Excerpts] United Nations, 9 Oct (KUNA)—[passage omitted]

What happened to the Palestinian people yesterday in holy Jerusalem is an odious crime which deeply shocked the Arab and Islamic worlds inasmuch as it is a challenge to the entire world. This crime, in fact, is just a new episode in the series of crime which Israel has been and is still perpetrating against the Palestinian Arab people with the aim of undermining the determination of that people, repressing its heroic resistance, depriving it of its most basic rights, pushing it by brutal force to leave its home, and replacing it with alien settlers as is the nature of occupants everywhere.

The Israeli troops have killed dozens of our innocent Palestinian brothers in the past two days and their only crime was to defend spontaneously, and out of an obvious religious duty, one of the holiest Islamic sanctities. [passage omitted]

What happened yesterday was a double crime; it was the use of brute force against unarmed innocent people, and it was a disregard of the sacred places of the Islamic nation. This grave development demands that I ask your honorable council in the name of the Arab group:

First, to strongly condemn this criminal act which the Israeli gang committed in an irresponsible illegal way;

Second, to ask Israel, the occupying force, to immediately stop such practices against the unarmed Palestinian people;

Third, to ask Israel to provide complete protection to and to respect the Islamic sacred places in Jerusalem whose desecration can never be justified.

Fourth, to send a fact-finding commission to the occupied Palestinian territories to look into these inhuman practices and to submit a report about them,

Fifth, to provide the necessary international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

Mr. Chairman:

Let the Security Council, in examining this issue, be consistent with its firm and just course in removing injustice and oppression from the persecuted peoples which are subject to aggression. Let our attempt today be a balm which cures the wounds of the unarmed Palestinian people and consolidate their legitimate steadfastness in the face of the usurper and aggressor.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Saudi Arabia

Iraq Said To Mine Borders To Prevent Defections

JN1110201690 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Duhaym in Riyadh]

[Text] Staff Major General Prince Mut'ib Bin 'Abdallah Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy director of the military apparatus in the National Guard and commander of King Khalid Military College, has stated that the National Guard forces stationed at the front are prepared for any eventuality, that they are working skillfully and in coordination with the fraternal and friendly forces, and that "we have joint training with them."

The general said that Iraq has mined the border areas with the Kingdom to prevent defections by Iraqi troops and their escape from Saddam's inferno to Saudi Arabia.

Speaking to newsmen, the prince said that the media attribute to the Iraqi Army much more strength than it really possesses. The truth of the matter is that the Iraqi Army does not exceed 100,000 troops. The rest are victims and might be members of the opposition, whom Saddam forced to enlist in order to get rid of them. They are ignorant of the elementary principles of military science.

His highness praised coordination among the Gulf Cooperation Council states and said: We work as a single state. Our decisions are made in consultations among us. Asked about volunteers, his highness said: Their influx is beyond description.

His highness praised the fatherly patronage the National Guard receives from King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and from his faithful Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, adding that this patronage enabled the National Guard to achieve rapid progress and development.

Editorial Condemns Al-Aqsa Violence

PM1110115590 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p 15

[Editorial: "The Occupier's Dilemma and Adherence to the Fixed Principles"]

[Text] The crime committed by the Israeli occupier against the sanctity of al-Aqsa Mosque and its massacre of the unarmed people defending it were a grave insult to the feelings of millions of Muslims. The occupation record is full of crimes and massacres, but its new acts have surpassed all limits.

Perhaps the biggest mistake committed by the most extremist government in Israel's history is its belief that the pain which has ravaged the Arab and Islamic body because of what happened in Kuwait could make the Arabs and Muslims forget the fate of al-Aqsa Mosque and those defending it. The position on the Palestinian question is not a casual, changeable position nor does it depend on a particular event or individual. It is a position stemming from firm Arab and Islamic principles which are beyond any doubt or question.

Proceeding from these fixed principles, which have always been the core of its policies and the guide to its stands, Saudi Arabia has denounced and condemned the savage and repressive attack which targeted the sanctity of al-Aqsa Mosque and aimed to destroy the Palestinian identity.

In this connection the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has renewed its principled and firm stand in support of the Palestinian people, their just cause, and their legitimate struggle to regain their territory and establish their independent state. It called on the Islamic and Arab nations and on the international community to support the Palestinian people with all means and to confront the abominable Israeli practices.

The message is clear: The fixed principles remain the same, and support for what is right is a principled stand that does not change.

In fact, what is happening in and around al-Aqsa Mosque clearly reflects the bankruptcy of the occupation policy and the dilemma of those who bank on violating people's rights and international principles and who depend on the time factor to consolidate the fait accompli. That line is now more isolated than ever before because it tries to prolong the life of an international order which has long failed and collapsed.

PRC Ambassador Praises Saudi Role in Gulf

LD1010170190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1338 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Oct (SPA)—The People's Republic of China's [PRC] ambassador to the Kingdom, Sun Bigan, stated that his country understands and respects the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's measures to protect its territories. He added in a press statement published today that the multinational forces in the Kingdom are enough to fulfill their role. He reiterated his country's stance rejecting the Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait, and added that the Chinese stance on the invasion has been clear from the beginning.

The Chinese ambassador to the Kingdom stressed that his country has vehemently denounced the action, which is contrary to international laws and norms, and asserted the need for an immediate Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, with no prior conditions, and the return of legitimacy to the country.

Sun Bigan pointed out that China is a member of the UN Security Council, which has supported all UN resolutions on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and asserted that China is urging Iraq to heed such resolutions and comply with international will by withdrawing immediately from Kuwait, so that the international community would not have to resort to a military option. He expressed his hope that Iraq would adopt a positive stance in face of international will, calling for the need to withdraw from Kuwait so that Iraq would not face further measures.

He expressed his regret at the Iraqi side's continued stubbornness and discouraging statements. The Chinese ambassador praised the Kingdom's important role in safeguarding peace in the region. He said: China appreciates the Kingdom's wise policy, which makes every effort to bring about peace and stability. He concluded: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is very respected; its policy is well balanced and farsighted.

'Change' Cited in U.S. Stance on Palestinians

PM1110110690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Oct 90 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Worldwide Condemnation and Angry Mourning in Occupied Territory; Confrontations Extend to Nazareth; Saudi Arabia Senses Change in Washington's Position"]

[Excerpts] Occupied Jerusalem, world capitals, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, agencies—Yesterday was a long day of confrontations in the occupied Palestinian territory where people condemned the massacre carried out by the Israeli occupation forces the previous day. [passage omitted]

Saudi activity in Washington yesterday was of extreme importance, focusing mainly on the tragic incidents in occupied Jerusalem the day before yesterday. U.S. President George Bush received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Saudi Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the meeting was fruitful and constructive and that, for the first time in the history of U.S.-Saudi relations, there was agreement on the Palestinian question, with both sides condemning the bestial act and agreeing on specific measures to tackle the situation.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which contacted him by telephone from London, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the meeting was wholly positive, with the U.S. side condemning what happened in Jerusalem. This will increase both countries' determination to work for a settlement of the Gulf crisis so that we two countries and the international community can proceed to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who spoke to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan's office, said that the meeting produced a joint condemnation, which we believe is a good development, provides some pointers for the future, and confirms our steadfast conviction that adherence to legitimacy is the ideal way to resolve pending problems.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether the savage attack would reduce international interest in the Kuwaiti issue, the Saudi foreign minister replied: "No. I believe that it will strengthen the the effectiveness of the international position in pursuit of a settlement of the Kuwaiti issue, not the opposite."

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal spoke of a qualitative change in the U.S. views, saying: "There is fundamental determination on the part of the U.S. Administration to resolve the Palestinian problem once the Gulf problem is over. I sensed this without any evasion, and without any linkage between the two issues, because it is President Saddam Husayn that is trying to link the two with the aim of preventing the settlement of either."

The Iraqi regime, he said, should be the last to talk about the massacres in occupied Palestine after what happened in Kuwait, because that regime is the biggest killer of Arabs and Muslims of the present era. As for his boast that he will protect Palestine, it conflicts with the facts.

Diplomatic sources said yesterday evening that the UN Security Council will unanimously condemn Israel. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Official Says Saudi Arabia Occupies Yemeni Land

JN1110132390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 11

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Excerpts] In statements to AL-RA'Y, Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman Qarhash, secretary general of the Yemeni September Democratic Organization [al-tanzim al-dimuqrati al-sibtimbari al-yamani], has urged the Arab peoples and governments to take a serious and real stand in support of the Palestinian people because they are threatened with annihilation by the Zionist enemy and the Western colonialist powers, at the head of which is the United States of America. [passage omitted]

Mr. Qarhash ridiculed the Saudi concentrations on Yemeni borders. He stressed that those concentrations will not defeat the Yemenis and will not be in the interest of the Saudi rulers. He also said these concentrations will backfire against them and they are only aimed at appeasing the United States.

The secretary general of the September Democratic Organization stressed that Saudi Arabia occupies Yemeni territories three times the area of United Yemen, and that the Yemenis have not, and will not, forget their territory.

Regarding the future ambitions of the September Democratic Organization and the other parties in Yemen, he said: We hope to entrench democracy; support the Palestinian people and their intifadah and leadership, the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative; and support Iraq, all Arab peoples, and all struggling peoples in the world.

Palestinians, Yemenis Protest Against Israel

JN1110155590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Sons of our Palestinian Arab people in Sanaa staged a massive march today. Some Palestinian cadres, students, branches of professional Palestinian federations, masses of our Yemeni people, and schoolboys took part in the march.

The march set out from the headquarters of Palestinian mass organizations to the UN Organization office in Sanaa. The huge masses shouted slogans denouncing the Zionist repressive criminality and inhuman practices against our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. They also denounced the brutal carnage committed against the sons of the Palestinian people last week, which led to the killing of many of our people in Palestine.

The masses also carried pictures of the two Arab leaders, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Yasir 'Arafat, and the flags of the Yemeni and Palestinian revolutions, in addition to placards denouncing Zionist brutality and the world's silence on the arrogance of this enemy. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Jordan, Iraq With Messages

JN1010192390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani returned to Sanaa this evening following visits to Jordan and Iraq, during which he conveyd two messages from Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brothers His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal and His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the Gulf crisis and on both Arab and international efforts to reach a political settlement of it and of other Middle East crises. The messages also dealt with developments on the Palestinian arena and the recent Zionist crime perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authorities against our Palestinian Arab people at the courtyard of the holy al-Aqsa Mosque.

In a statement to SABA' upon his return, Dr. al-Iryani said that he was carrying two reply messages to the brother chairman of the Presidential Council from his brothers the Iraqi president and the Jordanian monarch.

Delegation Leaves To Attend IPU Meeting

JN1010205790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, Council of Representatives speaker, left for Uruguay today at the head of the Yemeni parliamentary delegation to participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union's [IPU] 84th conference to be held on 15-20 October.

In a statement to SABA', the brother speaker of the Council of Representatives said that our country's participation in this conference is in response to the invitation received by the Council from the IPU, which considers the Council an effective member in the Union's activity. He said that the IPU will discuss several issues concerning the situation in the world, among which is eliminating occupation and its effects, strengthening cooperation between developing and advanced countries, and studying new forms of regional cooperation.

The conference will also discuss education and liberating the people of developing countries from illiteracy so they can participate effectively in democratic life.

Brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man added that, on the sidelines of the conference several meetings with leaders of parliamentary delegations from sisterly and friendly countries will be held to discuss strengthening and promoting bilateral cooperation in the parliamentary fields.

Concluding his statement, the speaker of the Council of the Representatives expressed confidence that the conference fulfill its responsibility wisely in discussing the issues on its agenda and will arrive at results that serve the nations' higher interests and fulfill their designs and wishes in strengthening international cooperation [word indistinct], easing tension, and spreading peace and love in the world.

Kuwaiti Paper Indentifies 'Professional Killers'

PM1110121990 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 9 Oct 90 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Unleashes 167 Professional Killers To Terrorize the World"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Excerpt] London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—There are 167 professional killers spread in Iraqi embassies throughout the world, including the Iraqi Embassy in London. Most of these carry diplomatic passports and are helped by "armies" of informers planted in embassies, universities, and trade centers by the foreign operations organ belonging to public intelligence as students, businessmen, or tourists.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information says that two brothers of Saddam are in charge of the "foreign operations" organ. They are Barzan Ibrahim, moved recently to occupied Kuwait to take charge of intelligence there, and Sab'awi Ibrahim. Information also says that the organ supervises four establishments which graduate professional killers, most notably is "Ibn-al-Haytham establishment" in al-Waziriyah, al-Rasafah, Baghdad, and this is provided with strong protection and tight security. This is in addition to the "Hittin establishment" on the other side of the city. The latter was founded some time after the former to absorb the large numbers of candidates. The third establishment is the "special institute" in al-Harithiyah, al-Rasafah. Then there is the "institute for toughening female comrades," whose task is to graduate professional women killers.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information says that since last February the foreign operations organ have dispatched 167 graduates from these establishments on missions abroad, whereas in the 1985-1988 period the number of those sent on missions did not exceed 32, even though Iraq was in a state of war with Iran—which proves that Saddam Husayn was preparing to invade Kuwait and strengthening the corps of murderers abroad with a view to terrorizing the world.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information also says that Arab and Western intelligence organs are watching the activities of Mani' Rashid al-Tikriti, an aide to Barzan Ibrahim. He also was a diplomat in Rome in 1983, was accused of collaborating with the Red Brigades and as a result was expelled from Italy, but was later seen in the United Arab Emirates, where it was discovered that he had hired Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan, a Jordanian, to assassinate a Gulf state's ambassador to Kuwait on the grounds that he was opposed to Iraq's orientations in the war against Iran, and also to embarrass the Kuwaiti Government.

AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information says that Arab and Western intelligence organs are also watching Iraqi diplomat Gha'ib Hasan, who on 16 March 1984 opened fire in the the Swedish capital on a group of demonstrators protesting against Saddam's policy, killing two. He left Sweden, but was later seen in East Berlin, then Sudan. Arab and Western intelligence organs are also watching the activities of Muhammad Jaburi, an Iraqi diplomat who served in Beirut and was behind 16 bombing operations in Beirut alone. He formed a terrorist network which included among its elements Muhammad Khayr and Ziyad al-Jawari. The most notable of his assistants are 'Abd-al-Latif al-Nu'aymi and Muhammad Hamdan. The former was charge d'affaires at the Iraqi Embassy in Beirut and the latter was an employee at the "cultural center." After recent Beirut clashes broke out, Sabbar al-Hadithi emerged as the foreign operations man resident in east Beirut.

As for the Iraqi embassies abroad, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information says that the Swedish Government prepared a report on the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm. The report says that the number of licenses obtained by the embassy for carrying firearms exceeds the total number obtained by the embassies of 12 other states, including Cuba and Ethiopia, and is double that obtained by the U.S. Embassy and 34 times the Soviet Embassy total.

As for the Iraqi Embassy in the British capital, it has since 1984 represented the most notable "lair" for graduates of the four establishments. AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI's information says that 22 of the embassy's staff are involved in jobs "outside their missions." The assassination by poison in 1988 of the Iraqi citizen 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali led to the imposition of a close watch and the expulsion of four diplomats at the end of the same year.

Saddam Husayn's reliance on hired killers reveals that the invasion of Kuwait is only one stop on that tyrant's road, and that terror was, still is, and will remain his principal weapon. [passage omitted]

Doctor Said Executed, TV Announcer Jailed

JN1110114790 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 Oct 90 p 23

[Text] Amman, AL-ITTIHAD—Arrivals from Iraq have said that the Iraqi intelligence service has recently executed and imprisoned a number of Iraqi citizens, without giving any reasons.

Those arrivals said that Dr. Ibrahim al-Basri, the first Iraqi doctor to specialize in sports medicine, has been executed recently. The television announcer, Suhad Hasan, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.

Saudi 'Sources' Deny Saddam Visited Kuwait

PM1110135590 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 6 Oct 90 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report: 'UKAZ Reveals More Secrets: Saddam Lives in Shelter No. 6 and Did Not Leave Baghdad for Kuwait"]

[Excerpts] Jeddah—'UKAZ has learned from reliable sources that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has not left Iraq, thus it is not true, as reported and published, that he visited Kuwait and inspected the Iraqi occupation forces there the day before yesterday.

The sources said that the news was part of a plan drawn up by the Cuban intelligence team which has been working in Iraq for two months following a personal request by President Saddam to his Cuban opposite number, Castro. [passage omitted]

'UKAZ can confirm that when the news was broadcast President Saddam Husayn was in shelter No. 6, some 27 km from Baghdad. It is one of nine shelters used by the Iraqi leader, where he moves from one to another in accordance with the Cuban team's advice. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the reliable sources revealed that Iraqi intelligence has started to coordinate with a terrorist group from the German "Meinhof" Group to carry out sabotage actions in some Arab and Western states.

'UKAZ will publish further information about these activities whenever new details are available to it.

Yugoslav Reporter Describes Effects of Blockade

AU1110181390 Zagreb DANAS in Serbo-Croatian 9 Oct 90 p 61

[Report by TANJUG correspondent Salih Konjhodzic "especially for DANAS": "Life Under the Blockade"]

[Text] Baghdad—When did Iraqis have it more difficult: during the eight-year bloody war with Iran or today, in the midst of two months of economic isolation? This question seems to be easy, but when we posed it in passing to several ordinary Baghdad people, we received a surprising answer: It is much more difficult now. Why is it so? Simply because of that constant insecurity which oppresses and troubles them like a nightmare, they say. True, they add, nobody is being killed yet, but who knows what direction these hardly predictable developments may take. Regardless of the dark premonitions about the possible explosion in the Gulf, most of these people—at least they say so in public—think that the annexation of Kuwait by the "mother country" had to come about sooner or later. Therefore, they see the economic blockade by the international community as their new sacrifice for "nobler aims" and the country's interests.

It is of course difficult to find out whether the majority of Iraqis think the same. However, one thing is certain: food rationing introduced on 1 September is seen as being much harder on the people than Iranian missiles fired at Baghdad and other targets in the past. Life during the economic blockade which had its two-month anniversary on 6 October, has already caused deep and complex changes which are slowly but definitely causing visible consequences in daily life. After a short time, the usually numerous Iraqi families with five, six, or more children have begun facing a new, not at all pleasant reality: How is one to survive? How is one to provide basic food items, clothes, footwear, and many other things without affecting the health of the family? Such a fate is shared by all Iraqi "guests," who are called "hostages" in the West, as well as other foreign citizens, including members of diplomatic-consular missions.

What supplies can an Iraqi obtain with ration cards? One can get half a liter of edible oil, 1.5 kilograms of rice, and a kilogram of sugar per month. Apart from this, one gets one bar of soap and half a kilogram of detergent. On the basis of these cards, one gets three slices of wholemeal bread a day, but one faces constant lines in front of bakeries. This rounds up the list of monthly "requirements." The prices of these supplies are trifling, but that is no consolation because so many other things have to be bought on the free market.

Food is getting increasingly scarce and there are no potatoes, eggs, milk.... True, there is enough meat, but if one judges by the empty butchers' shops, it is a privilege of well-off Iraqis: in order to buy 1.5 kilograms of meat, one has to pay almost one-tenth of one's monthly income. When asked how he manages to buy meat, an Iraqi replied laconically: I do not!

Footwear, clothes, household items, and other goods are also sold at subsidized prices introduced two years ago. They can be obtained in about 30 specialized shops, four of which are in Baghdad. However, this is poor consolation to a post office clerk, for instance, whose monthly income is 113 Iraqi dinars and who has to pay almost one-half of her wage for a skirt or a dress. Therefore, even at the cost of "bankruptcy," Iraqi women prefer to buy these items on the free market, and prices there are often even four times as high....

The story about Iraqis' daily troubles does not end here. Medicines present a special problem. The economic blockade has caused a real "wasteland" in this sphere; many key medicines have disappeared from chemists shops. Fearing shortages, people have simply hoarded all the things they needed. Baghdad chemist shops are half empty today, and doctors are raising their arms in despair because they cannot help even in cases of minor illnesses.

What do the top Iraqi officials say to all that? The sting of criticism is mostly directed at the United States and their "Zionist-imperialist alliance." Citizens are told that there is no food or medicine because of the "barbarian" behavior of these countries. Otherwise, one never mentions the causes that have led to the resolution on an economic blockade—the demand that Iraqi troops should unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait....

On the contrary, Kuwait is in fact offered as a kind of a "promised land." It is also said: Have a little more patience—time is on the Iraqi side. This is why the question of how the Iraqi blockade is seen and survived is not in the foreground at the moment. After all, Iraqi families know best what the answer is.

Hungarian Reporter Interviews Minister, Speaker

LD0910030490

[Editorial report] Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian at 1730 GMT on 8 October carries a 17-minute report by Jozsef Orosz, Budapest Radio correspondent in Baghdad, on conditions there. In setting the scene, Orosz cites a taxi driver as telling him that "two-and-a-half weeks ago" a mass demonstration against Saddam Husayn in Mosul "was bloodily suppressed," adding that the report could not be verified.

Orosz then interviews Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

Orosz asks Jasim: "Mr. Minister, the blockade is getting stronger every day. What do you think; how long will the hungry people support the Iraqi leadership? Will the hungry people be able to support the power which brought them here? People say that even during the eight-year war they did not have to line up for bread like they do now."

Jasim replies: "There can be no situation of people going hungry—we can avert this. Our reserves will be sufficient for one year. We introduced the rationing system so that the people would learn to live by apportioning things out."

Orosz then says the Iraqi National Assembly was only convened a few days after Kuwait was overrun, and this legalized the step taken by the Revolutionary Governing Council. The speaker of the Iraqi Parliament then says that the preliminary approval of the National Assembly would not have been necessary. At any event, the deputies were having their summer break, because according to the Iraqi Constitution, the Revolutionary Governing Council can take such decisions.

Orosz says: "Mr. Speaker, I imagine that the council did not have a particularly difficult task since its number-one member is Saddam Husayn; its members also include the minister of defense. So the Revolutionary Governing Council gave itself permission to take the step."

"I do not think there is anything objectionable in this," replies the speaker. "The Constitution allows this. The National Assembly, at its extraordinary session after 2 August, assured the government and President Saddam Husayn of its full support. The Revolutionary Governing Council enjoys the confidence of the people. It was with the awareness of this that it decided in favor of re-annexing Kuwait."

Orosz asks: "Mr. Speaker, do you not think that exactly two months after the military step was taken, the Revolutionary Governing Council, knowing every oscillation in its people's thinking, is also aware that the people want peace? If the council acts by listening to the voice of the people, why does the leadership not do its utmost to satisfy the wish of its beloved people, so that there should be peace as soon as possible?"

The leadership has been endeavoring for this from the outset, the speaker replies. President Saddam already on 12 August proclaimed his peace proposals. The people, then too, could see that we were in favor of peace, that we did not want war.

Orosz says: "Yes, Mr. Speaker. However, if the leadership really wants peace, it will do its utmot to find a compromise with the United States; but it appears that there is no chance for compromise by Iraq, because President Saddam has emphasized from the outset that he will not withdraw from Kuwait. The West will sit down to negotiate with him only when he does this. So the Iraqi leaership would rather accept the embargo and the blockade, and also the rationing of food, as well as people going hungry, than make concessions. Do you think that this, too, is done for the people?"

The speaker replies: "The people have expressed several times since 2 August that they support Saddam Husayn and they accept the difficulties. I think that you are not taking the fact into account. It was not Saddam Husayn who ordered the embargo and the blockade. Ask the Americans why they are doing this to the Iraqi people: The war against Iraq began when the Americans ordered the blockade. Do you not think that this is really a war, already, a war against 18 million Iraqi people who are not getting enough food and medicines for this reason?"

Orosz then asks the minister of information for his opinion of how close is war or how far away is peace.

Jasim replies: "It could be war at any time. The basis of any peace negotiation is that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait. There has been no progress in this question for two months. But there will be no compromise in this in the future either. Kuwait is a part of Iraq, you must know."

Orosz then asks the speaker of the National Assembly, how there is going to be peace in the Gulf in his opinion.

The speaker replies: "America must leave Saudi Arabia, the Holy Land, and the Gulf. How can we hold peace negotiations while American soldiers and ships are violating the holy sights? We conclude from this that the United States wants to resolve the problem with violence."

Orosz asks: If the United States withdraws its troops from Saudi Arabia, would Iraq also withdraw from Kuwait, so that every condition would be ready for peace talks?"

The speaker of the National Assembly says: "Let me ask you: Who is supposed to withdraw, in your opinion? Is it not the ones who occupy the territories of others? We did not do this."

Kuwait Border Said Changed To Include Islands

JN1110130290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1212 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Arrivals from Kuwait told our radio that the Iraqi authorities have moved forward their border post with Kuwait for a distance of 80 km into the emirate. They added that the post has become the new center of the Iraqi customs and security measures for those crossing in both directions after having destroyed the previous post in the al-'Abdali area. They also emphasized that the Iraqi authorities have set up a two-story building for this purpose and erected barbed wire in both directions as far as the eye can see.

According to this modification, Bubiyan and Warbah Islands, the (al-Satfiyah) area opposite Bubiyan Island, and the western area as far as the Iraqi border have become part of Iraqi territory. These areas contain the Kuwaiti part of the previously disputed al-Rumaylah oil field.

It is noteworthy that after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait these areas were renamed Saddamiyat al-Matla' on 28 August and were annexed to the al-Basrah Governorate in southern Iraq.

New Kuwaiti Road To Improve Troop Movement

JN0510172190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Leader President Saddam Husayn has expressed his satisfaction and pleasure at the accomplishment of the first stage of the 837-km road construction work in a record time of just 40 days. After taking cognizance of the message of the chief of the Control Office supervising the engineering work in the Kuwait operation theaters, in which he announced the accomplishment of the first stage, his excellency said: May God bless the Iraqis, who honored them when He gave them the front position to destroy falsehood and reveal justice.

The following is the text of the message: [passage omitted]

Your sons from the Control Office were a beehive of creativity and generosity in your victorious Iraq. They continued their work day and night on the soil of our dear Kuwait to raise another banner of your splendid victory banners in this honest confrontation. Our slogan was: Nothing is Impossible for the Power of the Faithful Person When it Is Mobilized on the Right Path. Therefore, we challenged the hard and difficult circumstances in the desert of the moving sands. We accomplished the first stage of our work—837 km of roads that will provide flexible movement for the victorious troops of justice in a record time of only 40 days. This is in harmony with the size of this honorable confrontation. [passage omitted].

[Signed] Mahmud Dhiyab al-Mishadani, under secretary of the Housing and Construction Ministry and chief of the Control Office supervising the engineering efforts in the Kuwait operational theaters.

U.S. Stance at UN 'Blow' to 'Agents, Lackeys'

JN1210111290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—Commenting on what is going on now in the UN Security Council regarding the massacre which the Zionists committed in the Jerusalem holy mosque on Monday, an official spokesman has made a statement to INA. The following is the text:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The massacre that took place on Monday, 8 October in the Jerusalem holy mosque has stirred broad condemnation among world public opinion and citizens, whose hearts have not been spoiled by backstage politics. However, those who make their calculations in the dark corridors and under the influence and fear of what they stand to gain or lose on the level of their evil allies and partners in crime in the region, had, and still have, another position. Despite the fact that their double standards in positions on international issues were exposed after their stand against Iraq and pressure on the UN Security Council to adopt the well known hostile resolutions, they have not tried to move from their hostile position against the Arabs and their central cause in Palestine.

Despite the fact that they do not have a cover to hide their disgraceful position this time, they have publicly lost shame, and no longer give weight to any of those considerations. As always, the United States and its administration, which is conspiring against the Arab nation, stands at the head of those with no shame and no human feelings.

Despite the fact that the honest Arabs, including—and even at forefront of which are—the Palestinians, have never had any illusions about U.S. hostile positions against their causes and its strong alliance with Zionism and its monstrous entity, with which it exchanges interests, including influence on voters and the public opinion trends in the United States—we say, despite all this, and despite the fact that the Arabs, including Palestinians, do not expect anything from the Security Council except words which cannot be implemented, no matter how much they are stressed, as the case has been with all the previous resolutions that have gone with the wind; and regardless of what the awaited words may be, the United States has begun to maneuver, argue, and oppose even saying words of this kind. It has tried to weaken those words before they emerge from the corridors of the United Nations, which it controls, in order not to make Israel angry with the U.S. Administration and so that U.S. marks will not drop in the test of elections or the exchange of mutual interests in various fields, including the joint aggression which they are planning.

With this expected behavior, the U.S. Administration has this time dealt a blow to its agents and lackeys who went along with it in its hasty and unfair resolutions against Iraq. Will this be a lesson to those who are swimming in illusions?

As for the Arab masses, no talk that is based on considerations outside their interests will be a substitute for their struggle. They will benefit only from a capable, fair action that tells the Zionist: Leave the Arabs' sanctities in Palestine, and let its people live free of the influence of occupation's weapons.

Aviation Official on Embargo, Countermeasures

JN0710162590 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Oct 90 p 5

[By Lahib 'Abd-al-Khaliq]

[Text] The resolution imposing the air embargo, which the United States pushed the UN Security Council (the council of the five states) to adopt, has raised many questions, with many countries considering it illegal since it violates the regulations of the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO]. But although the skies—except for the Jordanian skies—had already been closed to our planes before this unjust resolution was issued, and although many countries have not followed the frantic U.S. campaign, the resolution has certainly affected Iraq's economy. In the following two interviews, AL-JUMHURIYAH asks Mr. Tariq Salbi, director general of the civil aviation, to shed some light on Iraq's countermeasures, and it asks Dr. 'Abd-al-Husayn Zayni, professor of economic statistics at Baghdad University, to explain the impact of the resolution on trade.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] Can the Security Council vote on a draft resolution not first presented to ICAO?

[Salbi] Of course not. The ICAO law stipulates that member states vote on any resolution before forwarding it to the Security Council. This did not happen with the resolution in question, which, clearly, was prepared in advance under U.S. influence. This is absolutely illegal, especially against a country that represents the entire Middle East in the ICAO. As you know, the Organization's Council comprises 33 states, elected to represent three categories—the first category, the second category, and the third category. We represent the third category, which, in addition to Iraq, comprises Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. The position of the latter two was very bad, while Tunisia's position was very honorable.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] What measures has Iraq taken in its capacity as representative of the Middle East in the Organization?

[Salbi] We are preparing to nullify another draft resolution that bans the use of the (formerly) Kuwaiti planes—a resolution that the hostile quarters have feverishly been seeking to pass. Our representative at ICAO rejected a discussion of this subject, and on 26 October we will try to be in Montreal to stop attempts to discuss the resolution and to file a lawsuit with the International Court of Justice. We will try to break the draft resolution and beat America back.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] You said there is an Iraqi representative at the international organization. What are his duties?

[Salbi] He was elected to represent the Middle East, and his duties are linked to those of the Council of the Organization, which is headed by Dr. As'ad Qutayt (a Lebanese). I would like to point out that there are technical and legal committees affiliated with air traffic and air navigation. The representative is accountable to the Organization for the activities of these committees in the Middle East.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] What was the Organization's position on the U.S. resolution? Have there been any acts of piracy?

[Salbi] The Organization has remained silent, for it is a UN specialized agency. But to date, there have been no interceptions of our planes, for the simple reason that we closed our air routes through Saudi Arabia because of its hostile positions, and because it has closed its routes. Turkey has also begun to implement the resolution, and for the first time since the crisis erupted, it has intercepted Russian planes bound for Iraq. So, only Jordan was left, and this is a safe route out of America's reach. There remains another important issue; namely, that many world nations are trying to conclude bilateral civil aviation agreements with us. We are now considering this possibility, because it is related to international sovereignty, but the question remains: What will those countries do if the American pirates use their Air Force to intercept their planes bound for us or our planes bound for them? We are studying all possibilities. And when I talk about aviation agreements, I certainly mean passenger as well as cargo air traffic.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] You have mentioned the Baghdad-Jordan route. To my knowledge, the route formerly passed over the Arabian Peninsula. What measures have you taken?

[Salbi] Thanks to the cooperation of our Jordanian brothers, we started operating a direct route from Baghdad to Jordan. I would point out that some Arab and foreign countries are still honoring their agreements with us. As yet, we haven't met with any opposition. For example, Romanian Airways are still operating between Baghdad and Bucharest.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] Do you think it will be possible for you to beat this resolution, and are there legal grounds to support your argument?

[Salbi] ICAO was founded under the 1944 Chicago Treaty, the provisions of which prohibit the practice of terrorism and air piracy to advance the interests of any nation. We will invoke these provisions as we seek to win over members to beat the resolution.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] Has Iraq reciprocated in kind, say, by closing its airspace?

[Salbi] Of course not. We have said in newspaper ads and in circulars to pilots that our airspace is open, despite the fact that traffic is operating only to and from Jordan.

AL-JUMHURIYAH then directed its questions to Dr 'Abd-al-Husayn Zayni:

['Abd-al-Khaliq] Does the air blockade affect the economy of Iraq and the Arab region negatively or positively, and what are the resultant economic repercussions?

[Zayni] It goes without saying that the economy of Iraq and some other Arab states suffers from the air blockade, since, in common with land and maritime transport, air transport carries people and goods. With the enforcement of the land and sea blockade, we have had to rely on air transport to meet essential needs. But with Iraq under an air blockade now, this option is closed. It is not clear as yet whether the air blockade covers both modes of transport, or if it is confined to goods—as it is implied—and it seems that there is no international consensus on interpretation. In any case, the Iraqi people and leaders will learn to live with the facts and adapt accordingly.

['Abd-al-Khaliq] Will the embargo have an impact on the traffic of trade on the international market in terms of air fares or the supply-and-demand situation regarding capital goods?

[Zayni] The embargo will have an impact on the import and export sectors. With the cutoff of oil exports, there has been a halt in the export and import of goods involving a lot of money, and as a result the nations with which we have trade links stand to suffer considerable damage. For one thing, the blockade is depriving them of a huge market for their goods. For another, they have been deprived of a source of cheap energey.

[Salbi] Some carriers have put up their ticket fares by 25 percent, which must be directly blamed on oil prices, and will certainly have an impact on air travel. Foreign air companies have definitely been adversely affected. We may be able to find a way out through bilateral agreements we will seek to arrive at. It will then be up to the conference scheduled for 26 October.

Citizens Urged To Recycle To Beat Blockade

JN0810165990

[Editorial report] Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic on 5 October publishes on page 6 a 1,000-word report by Husayn 'Umran under the headline "In Order To Contribute To Breaking the Economic Blockade on Our Country." The report urges citizens to make use of solid waste materials and not to dispose of any material that they possess, even if these have been used.

The report begins by addressing the Iraqi citizen: "Wait. Don't throw what is in your hands in the garbage can. Wait and think. Could we benefit from some of the garbage which you are going to throw away? You might not benefit from these items, but there are others who could use the things you want to throw away."

The report touches upon the "return of the branch, Kuwait, to the origin, Iraq," and the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. It then poses the question: "How can we overcome this economic blockade?" It says that this depends a great deal on citizens' awareness.

At Baghdad Municipality, Tariq Rif'ah, director of the Planning and Followup Section, gives an interview to the reporter. He elaborates on ways to benefit from used materials. He stresses the importance of the cooperation of citizens so as to succeed in this mission. He says that used materials can be of benefit by recycling them. He gives examples: paper, plastic substances, tires, batteries, and other materials, which citizens can keep and then hand over to garbage trucks if this is agreed upon with those who would benefit from them. In addition, token awards, he says, could be given to citizens who cooperate with us, and thus we can beat the economic blockade.

The director goes on to say: "Some of you might wonder what is the use of an empty plastic container, a bottle of medicine, or a heap of papers." He adds: "We say that the value of this lies in the fact that some of these components are imported from outside. However, if we collect used materials and recycle them, we will be able to overcome the economic blockade, first of all, and will save hard currency, secondly.

The director contends that citizens might not be aware enough to cooperate in the manner needed. That is why, he adds, we might have to "force" citizens to collect these materials and hand them over to the authorities, by, for example, not selling them new batteries unless they bring along the old ones.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Al-Aqsa Incident

JN0910152390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—The Foreign Ministry issued a statement today on the abominable Zionist crime against our Palestinian people in occupied Palestine yesterday. The following is the text of the statement:

Once again, the Zionist regime has committed an abominable crime against the sons of our people in occupied Palestine. This regime, as usual, carried out killings and violated sanctities.

This crime is not separated from the series of crimes committed by this regime throughout tens of years—occupation, annexation, repression, displacement, looting, and every other type of crime. These crimes have been committed in front of the world and international organizations, particularly the Security Council. The Arab nation and the entire world, particularly those with a conscience, know that the Security Council has not adopted—for the tens of years—any serious and effective measure to stop these crimes or to punish the Zionist regime.

The continuous American protection of these crimes encourages the Zionist entity to continue with its crimes and to challenge human and international laws. International law and the UN Charter are being obstructed because of the Zionist entity's crimes and aggressive and expansionist policies.

This crime provides another piece of evidence of the double standards and hypocrisy exercised by some big powers, headed by the United States, when dealing with human rights and peoples' freedom and right to sovereignty, peace, and security.

Iraq urges the Arab nation not to be satisfied with the verbal condemnations that have been issued, or will be issued of this crime, because such action has not halted previous crimes and will not halt subsequent crimes. It only helps to make the wave of anger subside and makes it possible deliberately to ignore the real situation in occupied Palestine and the continuing tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people.

This crime should make the Arab nation, all those with a living conscience, and all freedom-loving peoples and states stress strongly Iraq's proposition that it is necessary immediately to discuss all the region's issues in accordance with the same principles and standards and on the basis of President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August.

Any approach outside this comprehensive vision cannot guarantee the implementation of international law and cannot protect the Palestinian people from aggression, remove the nightmare of tyrannical occupation, or secure their national rights. It is high time we tested the big powers that have assembled their forces in the region and that have issued hasty and unjust UN Security Council resolutions to defend their interests and agents in the region, and have exercised a policy of hypocrisy and double standards on a large scale throughout the history of the United Nations in their dealings with international issues and international law and charters. We insist on the liberation of the land, restoration of usurped rights, and securing freedom, justice, and security in Palestine and the region without discrimination.

'Aziz Receives Burkinabe Envoy 11 Oct

JN1110123090 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 11, INA—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met today the personal envoy of President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso to President Saddam Husayn, Mr. Boukary Mohamed Jubra'il, President Compaore's adviser.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed bilateral friendly relations and issues of common concern and exchanged viewpoints on the situation in the region, referring to the close ties linking the Arab nation to Africa in the struggle against imperialism for freedom, independence and progress.

Present at the meeting were the foreign undersecretary and head of the second political department at the Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Saddam

JN1110200690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Boukary Mohamed Jubra'il [name as received], adviser and personal envoy to His Excellency Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore. The Burkinabe official conveyed to the president a written message from President Blaise Compaore on bilateral relations and the situation in the region. The message expresses his country's solidarity with the people of Iraq in their confrontation of the brutal imperialist onslaught to which Iraq is being subjected.

The president asked Bukari Mahmoud Jubra'il to convey his greetings to Burkinabe President Blaise Compaore.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, and Mundhir Ibrahim al-Shawi, minister of higher education and scientific research.

'Aziz Receives European Parliament Delegation

JN1110135290 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 11, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received today the European Parliament delegation headed by Mr. Deter Schanzal, member of the European Parliament, member of the German Socialist Democratic Party, the deputy chairman of the Arab-German Friendship Society.

The two officials exchanged viewpoints about the situation in the Arab region and there was stress on the necessity of establishing just and comprehensive peace in the area based on President Husayn's initiative of August 12.

The meeting was attended by the ministry's undersecretary and head of the first political department.

Delegation Departs

JN1110155090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA)—The European parliamentary delegation left Baghdad today after a three-day visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, Deter Schanzal, member of the European Parliament, member of the German Socialist Democratic Party, and deputy chief of the Arab-German Friendship Society, said that he met, during the visit, with Iraqi officials and discussed with them developments in the Middle East, particularly the tension in the Arabian Gulf, in addition to ways of developing the friendly relations between the Iraqi and German people to serve their mutual interests.

He affirmed the need to resolve all problems in the region through dialogue and peaceful means and reject the methods of threats and military intervention that might spark a destructive war in the region.

Saddam Congratulates Foreign Leaders

Germany's Weizsaecker on Unification

JN0610153590 Baghdad INA in English 1347 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 6, INA—President Saddam Husayn congratulated Federal German President Richard von Weizsaecker on the occasion of establishing the unified German state.

In his telegram President Husayn congratulated President Weizsaecker and the people of Germany for confronting the challenges of this age and reuniting the people.

President Husayn said that the Arab nation, who faced similar circumstances imposed on it by the imperialist forces, looked upon the German historic accomplishment as a positive step on the path of uniting the dismembered nations and as an example to be followed by every nation struggling to recover its historical right.

President Husayn also wished the people of Germany further progress and prosperity.

Spanish King on National Day

JN1210085890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0825 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulations to King Juan Carlos of Spain on his country's national day. The cable states:

On the anniversary of your country's national day, we are pleased to send best wishes to your majesty, wishing you good health and happiness, and the Spanish people continued progress and prosperity.

Kurdish Front Representative Zibari Interviewed

PM0410152090 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Sep 90 p 3

[Interview with Hushbar Zibari, "representative of the Kurdish Front in Europe," by Zaki Shihab in London; date unspecified]

[Text] [Shihab] The Syrian capital recently hosted an Iraqi opposition conference. What was it like, and what issues were broached there?

[Zibari] Frankly, what took place was not a conference. Some Iraqi opposition parties have been holding meetings and talks in Damascus for some time now to arrive at a joint political working program and to agree on a formula, not necessarily a front—an alliance or a coalition comprising all the Iraqi opposition tendencies represented by the Iraqi Kurdish Front, which includes six Kurdish parties, as well as the Islamic opposition movements and the Iraqi democratic forces representing the Ba'thists, al-Nasirists, communists, and independent figures.

The talks are currently in full swing, but so far no results have been achieved. However, we hope the talks will achieve some positive results.

What I do know is that an agreement has been reached on basics, though not on all points. The matter of toppling the regime must be the top priority for any Iraqi opposition move. The other question is to bring about a constitutional parliamentary system that guarantees elections and public freedoms and eliminates nationalist and sectarian discrimination from the country. The other point is to grant the Iraqi people the freedom to choose the kind of rule or political system without constraint. There is virtual unanimity on these points. Frankly, there has been an idea of forming a preparatory committee through these talks to prepare for convening an extended meeting for the opposition members present in addition to Iraqi figures living in exile, such as former officers and diplomats, businessmen, and independent personalities with known political backgrounds. There is nothing specific at the moment, but the atmosphere is positive.

[Shihab] You spoke about matters agreed on. What are the questions on which there is disagreement?

[Zibari] There are some ideological differences, especially between the Islamic and national parties. They concern the nature of the future political system. Some Islamic parties want the system to be Islamic. There is another view that these questions should be left to the Iraqi people, for them to determine their own future.

I believe that this question was raised during President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran with the religious leaderships there, on the grounds that some Iraqi religious opposition parties are in Tehran while the others—the national parties—are in Damascus. Some agreement between Syria and Iran in this regard would facilitate the task of others.

With regard to us of the Kurdish Front, we have no problem with anyone. Our aims are very clear, and we have no disagreements with this or that quarter. This is because we believe that what we are asking for is a constitutional parliamentary system to replace the existing system and to guarantee public freedoms, equality, and justice for all.

[Shihab] How much of the opposition is involved in the Damascus meetings?

[Zibari] All of it is participating in the talks. There is the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution, comprising the [Islamic] Call Party, the Mujahidin Movement, the Jundullah [soldiers of God], the Organization for Islamic

Action, the Iraqi Islamic Grouping, and the Kurdish Front which itself comprises six Kurdish parties. This is in addition to the Ba'th Party-Iraq's Command, the Socialist Party in Iraq (an al-Nasirite Party), independent nationalists, the leftist movement represented by the Communist Party, and independent Iraqi figures resident in Syria.

[Shihab] Some reports cited participants' efforts to announce a provisional government in exile. Was anything of that kind broached?

[Zibari] Frankly, we have no information about such matters. In my view, what has been proposed is premature, because the objective of the present opposition meetings is to agree on a specific political program to clarify the political opposition's position on developments in events. The government issue depends on opposition activity and its alternative. And, as I said, it is out of the question at the moment. Some of the statements made in that regard can only be described as premature.

[Shihab] How much of its freedom of movement has the Kurdish movement regained, in view of recent developments?

[Zibari] What the Iraqi leader did did not surprise us. We Kurds have suffered more than any other group of the Iraqi people. We have suffered from that regime's oppression and violations, from the use of poison gas both before and after Halabjah through the destruction of villages, evacuation operations, and other violations.

Frankly, it is in our interest to eliminate these violations which threaten our existence. This is why we are in a strong position inside, militarily, politically, and organizationally. The latest information I have is that many official military personnel have joined our fighters in the northern region. The news that we have received is frightening. It conflicts with all expectations: There is talk of the loss of 1,600 Iraqi soldiers during the invasion or as a result of resistance operations.

The elements who have joined us also emphasized that most of the oil installations have been mined. The other point is that most violations have been committed by the Republican Guard forces. If military operations take place Iraqi military units are expected to join Syria or other quarters.

We existed on the scene before the invasion and we will continue to exist after it. We have a very clear issue with the Iraqi regime. At present there is an objective circumstance. Before the invasion we were the only ones confronting the Saddam regime with our own capabilities.

Now almost the entire world has accepted the ideas and fears which we expressed about the nature of that expansionist, aggressive regime. So we will play a leading role in any effective Iraqi move inside the country. This is because the Kurdish Front's human and military capability qualifies it to play such a role.

Second, we have expressed our aim—namely, to reach an understanding with all the region's states, the European states, and the United States. So if they are serious about bringing about a change in the country, they must recognize the opposition movement. We are entitled to know our role in advance, as well as our right to participate in power. One of the things we want is Kurdish participation in power.

[Shihab] Have your international contacts, as the Kurdish Front, intensified since 2 August?

[Zibari] Some reservations have prevailed with regard to the Kurdish issue. We have expressed our position in the press and the media on several occasions. We emphasized that we wanted to explain our cause. One of the positive developments that have taken place is that the French Government recently officially received a Kurdish delegation of the Kurdish Front.

It is the first time in the Kurdish movement's history that a European state has officually received a Kurdish delegation, whether at the French Foreign Ministry or at the Elysee Palace, where it was received by an adviser to President Mitterrand.

For us that was a diplomatic breakthrough. There is now great interest in the Kurdish issue at the European political level. An international conference on the Kurdish issue will be held in Stockholm in November.

A similar conference on the Kurdish issue may be held in the U.S. Congress on 28 November.

Our option is so far more political than military. In view of this change, we hope to have a role in building the future Iraq.

[Shihab] But there is an overlapping between your interests and ambitions as the Kurdish Front and the European states' position and relations with the region's states in which large communities of Kurds reside. What is your comment?

[Zibari] We appreciate that our position is difficult, odd, and complex because of the geographical and political situation in the region. For us to give up and say that the Kurdish issue is insoluble because of this overlapping or contradiction is one thing, but to confront and tackle the issue as it is is another matter. At present Turkey has a veto against the Kurdish issue. The European states, the United States, and other states follow the same line. But it is in these states' interests to bring about a change in Iraq. The change must take place through a positive interaction with developments inside the country—an opposition movement active at the level of the masses as well as politically and militarily.

We believe that the Iraqi regime will not be toppled by foreign pressure, as the Iraq-Iran war proved. The regime did not collapse under the Iranian Army's strikes. This is because it would certainly strengthen internal unity and the spirit of solidarity. If we look at what the Iraqi media say we find that the emphasis is on the importance of internal unity. So it is essential to understand the stance of the opposition, of which we are part, especially since we have no impossible demands or a demand for separation.

Our demands concerns Iraq and are internal, and we make our national demands on an Iraqi basis.

[Shihab] Do other Kurdish organizations share this view?

[Zibari] Most of the Kurdish organizations which I represent—especially the Iraqi ones—agree with this view. All the Kurdish organizations rallyied under the Kurdish Front's banner believe in this slogan and this objective.

[Shihab] But there is a demand for an independent state for the Kurds.

[Zibari] There are extremist proposals here or there. But we represent the authentic political movement in Kurdish society. Our program has been declared, as have our aims within the united Iraqi entity.

Serious Concern Expressed Over U.S. Stand in UN

Diplomats 'Amazed'

TA1210052390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The Security Council remains divided on the formulation of the proposed denouncement of Israel. The Americans insist on their objection to the nonaligned countries' demand to specify the tasks of the UN delegation to the territories.

Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that Israeli diplomats in Washington are amazed at what they called the U.S. readiness to sell out Israel in return for the attempt to maintain unity in the anti-Iraqi camp.

Political sources in Jerusalem have expressed concern over the U.S. readiness to agree to the graver Security Council version of Israeli condemnation, which the Arabs demand. Our political correspondent Arye Golan has been told that the U.S. willingness to continue the deliberations over its proposed resolution does not herald an outcome favorable for Israel.

May Damage Ties With U.S.

TA1210092490 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Oct 90 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Senior sources in Jerusalem last night described world reaction to events on the Temple Mount as "a real landslide," although official statements by various governments, including the United States and Egypt, were defined as "relatively moderate."

Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu warned U.S. Ambassador William Brown against a Security Council resolution saying "that it would be unable to live with." Such a resolution would cause serious damage to Israeli-U.S. relations and encourage the PLO and Saddam Husayn.

Israel made clear to the United States that it would not accept a delegation directly appointed by the Security Council or the UN secretary general which would be called on to present recommendations on ways to defend the inhabitants of the territories. Such delegations would illegally expropriate from Israel (under the Geneva conventions) exclusive responsibility for the security of the occupied territories.

Israel did not make clear its position on a delegation appointed on behalf of the secretary general which would not be instructed to present recommendations, which it had agreed to accept in the past, because of the fact that, in this case, it involves East Jerusalem, which is under Israeli sovereignty. [passage omitted]

The Israeli Embassy in Washington believes that special importance should not be attached to the fact that President Bush and Secretary of State Baker have used the expression "the Palestine question" in their reactions in recent days. On the other hand, Jerusalem believes that it expresses the administration's growing dissatisfaction with the government's activities, not just on the Temple Mount. In the coming days, an effort will be made to find out whether the use of this expression, which up to now had been used by the Arab and nonaligned states, might not indicate an additional slide by the administration in the direction of open support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian entity in the territories. [passage omitted]

Levi Says U.S. Policy Dictated by Gulf Coalition

TA1210071990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Mikha Friedman and Gilat Levi—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Levi] A very good morning.

[Friedman] Did your friend Jim [Baker] disappoint you by making available to the media your personal letter of commitment, which includes the explicit sentence that the use of housing loans which the United States is requested to guarantee will be limited to the geographical areas under Israeli sovereignty prior to 5 June 1967?

[Levi] No, there is no disappointment, and certainly no surprise. This letter is not secret, and it does not deal with the Israeli Government's policy and authority to settle people wherever it decides. It does not state that the government has to consult or get anyone's approval for such decisions. These things were said most explicitly as a result of the seeking of certain demands that had existed earlier, which I rejected unequivocally. Therefore, where guarantees for the loans are concerned, I do not think anyone believed we could have also received a statement that it lies within our authority to settle wherever we decide; that we would accept no dictates; and that the Israeli Government's decisions would not be protested. There is disagreement with our policy. If anyone expected that this money would signify the legitimization, the embracing of our policy by the United States, I believe he was guilty of unwarranted optimism.

[G. Levi] When you returned from the United States, there was a vague impression that the assurance you gave was not very significant. Now we hear that the situation is absolutely plain.

[Levi] Excuse me, when I returned I related everything in the plainest and most direct way possible on the Voice of Israel and again in another interview last Friday: It is our authority and right to determine our policy to settle wherever the government decides. The government needs no one's approval for that. What is true, however, is that, where the loan is concerned—it was said explicitly, and I said the same in the Israeli media—we will not use this particular money beyond the Green Line.

[Friedman] Including East Jerusalem?

[Levi] Excuse me, we are not drawing maps here. The issue in question was money which had been approved. If we want to make decisions—and we are authorized to do so, and it is our duty and our right to implement our decisions in the sphere of settlement—we have the state budget. One would think that we would have been left without a budget had it not been for that loan. The loan was earmarked for the absorption of immigrants inside the Green Line, period.

[Friedman] Then Israel is not prohibited from settling new immigrants in those areas, according to you? What about the new neighborhood that will be built in East Jerusalem, which the prime minister announced on the eve of the holiday?

[Levi] The announcement was the prime minister's, and I am positive he planned it with whomever is concerned. If a proposal for the establishment of a new neighborhood in East Jerusalem is raised, I will be the first to support it. The only point is that things have to be done in an orderly fashion, which is how I believe it will happen. In any event, we have made no commitment to the U.S. Administration to stop settlement or to ask for their approval before every decision.

[G. Levi] But the new neighborhood in East Jerusalem cannot be built with American money.

[Levi] This money cannot be used beyond the Green Line. It is designed to be used for the absorption of immigrants inside the Green Line.

[Friedman] With your permission, we will move on to another issue which, I presume, is marring our relations with the United States considerably these days. I am referring to the resolution the United States is attempting to pass in the Security Council. Although the resolution was defined as moderate, Israel is certain to view it differently, as it signifies a very special kind of condemnation of Israel's actions on the Temple Mount. What impact do you think this will have on our relationship with the United States?

[Levi] The situation is extremely problematic. As far as we are concerned, this event was caused by provocation. I am very sorry to say that this was an act of provocation on the part of Arab rioters who wished to attack the almost defenseless Jewish worshipers at that holy site. Taking into account the number of policemen on the location, we might say they were defenseless. It was the most foolish kind of provocation conceivable at this holy site, because they know we are in charge there. I am very sorry to say that this puts us in a very problematic situation in the international arena, since some elements have been waiting for just such an occasion. It was, in addition, a bloodthirsty political plot by people who did not care whether the victims were Jews or Arabs, because their deaths were deemed legitimate as long as the PLO's political line reemerged on the world's agenda.

[Friedman] But we failed in relaying this sentiment to the Americans.

[Levi] Allow me to continue. They wanted to create a link between events in the Gulf and here, in order to place their issue on the international agenda once more. I regret very much that the very fragile coalition created by the United States is indeed fragile from the point of view of its interests, and that it is now dictating a position to the United States.

[G. Levi] Would you define this surrender to consensus resulting from the need to maintain a coalition so as to wage the struggle in the Gulf as weakness on the part of the Americans?

[Levi] I would certainly define it as weakness, and that is extremely regretable, but all this is very far from jeopardizing or nearly jeopardizing our relations. The situation has become delicate.

I am very sorry to note that our gigantic endeavor—both in Europe and in the United States, the beneficial results of which we had just begun to enjoy, and which heralded a new era including the separation of the Gulf events from the Palestinian issue, as well as an agreement to force Arab countries to hold a dialogue with Israel and to announce an end to the state of war—I am sorry that all these things have changed for the worse as a result of the event.

[Friedman] Regarding the proposals in the Security Council, the prime minister has already said that Israel would refuse to accept a delegation probing the Jerusalem events on behalf of the Security Council, which is what the PLO has been trying to push. But what about an inquiry commission on behalf of the UN secretary general, as proposed by the United States? Will we consent to such a body here?

[Levi] We still do not know what resolution will be endorsed; we are waiting and at the same time acting along an open diplomatic channel. We will address any resolution which the Security Council endorses. Right now, there is a lot of running about there, with the constant changing of proposals; as you have seen, this has been going on for some time, and there is still no resolution. In addition, we do not know whether the United States will indeed adhere to its own formulation, alter it, or even use its veto prerogative. Therefore, we will address the issue, together with the prime minister, when a resolution is passed.

[Friedman] Foreign Minister David Levi, thank you very much.

Arab Doctors Say Many Rioters Shot in Back

TA1210100790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Oct 90 p 2

[Report by Jon 'Imanu'el, Ron Kampeas, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Only one of the 50 casualties hospitalized in al-Maqasid Hospital after the Temple Mount shooting was struck by a rubber bullet, al-Maqasid doctors said at a press conference yesterday in East Jerusalem. They added that several people were hit more than once, and that one was struck by 14 live or plastic bullets. Many of the wounded and dead were shot in the back, doctors said, indicating that they were shot while fleeing.

In response to claims that shots were fired from a helicopter, the doctors said that in several cases bullets followed a downward trajectory through the body, but that could mean they were fired from a rooftop at close range. Six of the 30 people still in al-Maqasid remain in critical condition, but the others are expected to make a full or substantial recovery, said Dr. Mustafa Barghuti, chairman of the Arab Doctors Association, chief orthopedist Dr. Rustum Namari, and chief surgeon Dr. Mustafa 'Abd-al-Shafi.

In talks with patients, Barghuti said, the doctors had been told that the shooting began after a large crowd surged towards the Moghrabi [Moors'] Gate on hearing that the Temple Mount Faithful were approaching it. Stones were thrown at soldiers, many of which missed and landed in the Western Wall Plaza, according to the rioters.

They disputed accounts that the riot began with stone-throwing, saying that by the time stones were thrown the shooting had already begun and police had evacuated thousands of Jewish worshipers.

Police said they would increase their numbers in the Temple Mount area and limit attendance at prayers today in anticipation of possible unrest.

Police Recommend Prosecuting Interior Minister

TA1210054490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The police have recommended prosecuting Interior Minister Arye Der'i for embezzlement, illegal transfer of funds, and violation of official trust. The recommendation appears in seven files police have given to the state prosecutor. Four of them deal with charges of illegal transfer of official funds that the Interior Ministry ordered to religious institutions via local municipalities.

This week, police investigators questioned Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek concerning the Der'i affair. Kollek was asked about the transfer of funds by the Jerusalem municipality to religious schools connected to the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party.

Albania Interested in Economic, Cultural Ties

TA1210094290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] In the midst of the ocean of condemnations and attacks against Israel, here is some encouraging and comforting news from Paris: Albania is interested in economic, cultural, and sports ties with Israel in preparation for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. These remarks were made by an Albanian diplomat to our Paris-based correspondent Gid'on Kouts in a first-ever talk between an Albanian official and an Israeli reporter. The conversation took place in the Albanian Embassy building in Paris, from where Gid'on Kouts reports:

The Albanian diplomat said that there is no reason why diplomatic relations with Israel should not be established in the future, although the current international situation prevents their immediate establishment. Albania is resuming ties with countries with which it has maintained no relations for many years. At the same time, it would gladly accept Israeli business investment in Albania. In addition, there is room for cultural exchanges and sports events.

Albania, which has natural resources of its own, is mainly interested in developing a technological infrastructure. The ties between the two countries must be prepared through a process of acquaintance between the two nations, and Albania is now more prepared to make new acquaintances.

Albania feels admiration for Israel's achievements and for the talents of the Israelis and Jews, said the diplomat. According to him, Albania has always had a friendly attitude toward Israel and the Israelis, even when it objected to the Israeli Government's policies. Albania has always supported the State of Israel's right to exist, but it objects to depriving other peoples of that right. While Albania maintains traditional friendships with Arab and Muslim countries, it identifies with Israel which, like Albania, is a small country facing grave problems and hostile powers. The Jewish nation suffered more than any other in World War II, and Albania was the first country invaded by Mussolini's fascists, even before Hitler invaded Poland. The few Albanian Jews were all saved then because of the protection by the Albanians.

Albanian sources have said that the legal aspect of the resumption of relations with Israel—when this is decided—will be easy, since a resolution to establish such ties was made by Albania in the 1950's. At the time, the resolution was not implemented because of the circumstances, but it was never revoked, either. The establishment of relations will mean only the implementation of that resolution. Recently, the USSR has established similarly founded diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Shamir on Foreign Relations, Domestic Issues

TA1010082490 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 10 Oct 90 pp 9, 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Tzvi Timor, Moti Bassok, and Avner Regev in Shamir's office on 8 October "at 0900," when "there was nothing to indicate that serious incidents were about to take place"]

[Excerpts] ['AL HAMISHMAR] Did you have to come out with the explicit declaration about the establishment of a Jewish neighborhood in East Jerusalem, which cleared somewhat the ambiguity regarding the arrangement Foreign Minister David Levi reached with the United States?

[Shamir] We do not want anyone to misunderstand the real significance of our position on Jerusalem. I think this would be unhealthy. It should be understood that with regard to Jerusalem, the position is very clear: We are obligated by the Camp David [accord] to conduct negotiations on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and not to take any unilateral steps without negotiations. We honor that. Jerusalem is not included in this; the Camp David agreements do not apply to Jerusalem because of the ideological aspects.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The question is whether it is necessary to highlight the differences?

[Shamir] I am not doing that. The United States is aware of the fact that Jerusalem should not be turned into a problem. There are the new neighborhoods we established in Jerusalem after the Six-Day War. They are already home to approximately 120,000 Jews. Do you expect them to declare all this illegal? Outlawed? We will continue to build. This is a process that cannot be stopped.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are you unimpressed by the expressions of sorrow made by certain administration circles?

[Shamir] I regret them, but after all, they are realists. They must acknowledge the facts and carry on.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The feeling recently is that the Soviets have demonstrated openness, in contrast with the U.S. restraint, as manifested in the loan guarantee issue, for example. This finds expression in some kind of Soviet strategic ideology as against hesitations of sorts the U.S. Administration has been exhibiting in relation to us. Can you feel that as well?

[Shamir] I would not compare the two. I have noticed that line in our press, including your newspaper. I would not always draw this comparison. The fact is that our relations with the Soviet Union have been improving continually, which is good. We welcome and nurture this, and if we could make this go on until we have normal diplomatic relations this would be an achievement which we would pursue later as well. The United States is currently singing a different tune, to use a common cliche, but we have a long history of good ties. I would not like to hold the thermometer and check the temperature every day. After all, friends also have their differences of opinion.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the loan guarantee issue not included here?

[Shamir] It should not have been an issue at all. The decision on the loan guarantee was passed by Congress for humanitarian reasons. No one saw it as a political move. The United States has always strived to have the USSR open its gates, and every administration supported aliyah. Now, thank God, we have it. We need help to absorb it, that is all. There was no room for political conditions on the wherefores and the whys. They presented all sorts of demands that had no relevance to housing for the immigrants. The USSR demanded that the new immigrants not be sent to areas which are currently controversial. We accepted that because of aliyah, not because we think it was a justified demand. Gorbachev himself said he accepts the Israeli government's announcement that it would do so. Why ask for additional assurances?

['AL HAMISHMAR] For 23 years, since the Six-Day War, the Americans have accepted the unclarity on East Jerusalem.

[Shamir] I do not know whether or not this was deliberate, but in any case they avoided discussing it with us. They must have considered the reality. They never complained about why we were building one neighborhood or another. They knew it would be pointless. As for the settlements, they did complain, but by and large that did not help either. Our position has been clear. They usually did not talk about Jerusalem. Now, during discussions of the loan guarantee, they in fact continued along the same path and did not mention Jerusalem.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Did the settlement of Dugit not tarnish your relations with President Bush a little?

[Shamir] Perhaps. I think it was a misunderstanding, and I explained that to him. He thought I accepted his view that we would not set up new settlements. I could not say so even if I wanted to. I cannot utter such statements, because it goes against everything I think and feel. I told him that it is not an obstacle to peace, and I firmly believe that. He must have gathered from that that we will not build or establish settlements at all. Then he read in the paper that we were dealing with some settlement about which a decision had been made long before, prior to my departure for Washington. I think the misunderstanding has been explained to him and that if there are differences of opinion he knows them very well.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Let us proceed to the Gulf crisis. Is Israel fully coordinated with the United States? Could you say, for example, that there will not be a case in which Israel launches a preemptive offensive or war without first informing the United States?

[Shamir] We never discussed this.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What about Cheney's declaration?

[Shamir] Which one?

['AL HAMISHMAR] That if Israel is attacked the United States will intervene. Was that meant to stop Israel from starting a preemptive war?

[Shamir] In view of Saddam Husayn's threats of attacking Israel, naturally people both in Israel—although Israel does not necessarily have to do the asking—and in the United States ask: What are you going to do if this happens? He said: I will strike Saudi Arabia, I will attack Israel, I will hit the oil wells, and what will you do? So Cheney replied.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Was his reply not meant to soothe Israel?

[Shamir] No, this is the position. This is the U.S. policy. That is their policy.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the United States committed to help us if we are attacked by Iraq?

[Shamir] We do not have any explicit agreement on the matter, but it must be morally committed to do so.

['AL HAMISHMAR] At any rate, is there no intention of taking some initiative?

[Shamir] We are not thinking about attacking any Arab or neighboring country. This is not our present policy.

['AL HAMISHMAR] [Shamir] Have you had any contact with the Iraqi Government on the matter? Did we deliver any messages to them?

[Shamir] Nothing. There were no contacts with Iraq. I do not know where Mubarak got this from, but he may have heard some journalists. You in the press know how such an impression can sometimes be created.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Were there other initiatives toward moderate countries, such as the Gulf emirates or Saudi Arabia, to take advantage of the crisis?

[Shamir] First of all, Iraq is Iraq, there is no room for mistakes. It is very difficult to make a mistake in distinguishing between Bahrain and Iraq, or between Saudi Arabia and Iraq. But there have been no clandestine contacts between Iraq and Israel, and this is a fact. I would not say I object to such contacts, but there have been none.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Your professional background requires secrecy.

[Shamir] Reality does.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are you worried by the cooperation in the Gulf between the United States and the Arab countries: Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia?

[Shamir] No, this is part of the reality and what it entails. I am concerned with what this could do to us. I am afraid that during one of the rounds after the crisis has been resolved this might have a detrimental effect on us, and I do not want that.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Why should we not exploit this situation for a dialogue with Syria, for instance?

[Shamir] Why not, indeed? We are prepared to conduct negotiations with each one of the Arab countries. I think now is not the right time. I believe that as long as the crisis continues this is not the most propitious time to conduct negotiations on far-reaching arrangements. The atmosphere is laden with tension. There is a certain hysteria of Muslim fanaticism, which is not conducive to rational negotiations.

['AL HAMISHMAR] On the Syrian issue, will you accept the Egyptian model of territories for peace, involving the demilitarization of the Golan?

[Shamir] I do not accept the formula of territories for peace. I do not know who invented it, and furthermore it is not mentioned in UN Security Council Resolution 242. Peace is peace. Peace negotiations can be held, and we think they should, and that the framework for this should be the Camp David accords or the newer version of the Israeli Government's of May 1989. We will hold negotiations, and these can be held with Syria and with any Arab country, as well as with all the relevant bodies.

['AL HAMISHMAR] How do you view relations with Jordan and King Husayn? Is it possible that the king might rule over a Palestinian state?

[Shamir] Even those who regard Jordan as a Palestinian state have no objection to his heading it. This means that those who maintain that Jordan is a Palestinian state are not necessarily the enemies of the king or his regime. Israel's interests call for stability: a stable Jordan, one that does not take hostile steps against Israel. If Husayn leads this policy, or if he has so far done so, then we have nothing against him.

['AL HAMISHMAR] This may change, however, in light of his firm support for Iraq?

[Shamir] This is the danger, and here are really the red lines. If Husayn, out of solidarity with Iraq, decides to join it in acting against us, this will change the situation.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Even if he is neutral?

[Shamir] Neutrality is something else. I mean real action against us, on two levels: If he allows Iraqi forces to enter Jordan to allow them to attack us, or if he turns our border into a hostile one. As long as he does not do that, relations with him are normal and can be tolerated.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The distribution of the protective gear kits, which began a few days ago, has raised tension and apprehension among the public a little. Could you sound some calming words?

[Shamir] I think we have said everything we had to say. We, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], said that the distribution of the masks is not made against the backdrop of some deterioration in the situation or information that we might be attacked with gas. We thought it was right to take this precautionary measure in light of the threats that have been made several times these past months.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Maybe it would have been better not to decide? Maybe the decision was purely political?

[Shamir] No political reasons were involved. In times like this, we usually do not add political considerations to security matters.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Let us move on to the unification of Germany. Is it the same for Jews all over the world and for Israel?

[Shamir] Israel is part of the Jewish people, and the supreme interest of the Jewish people today is to preserve the integrity, strength, and security of the State of Israel. The two are inseparable. We said that Israel cannot be a party in or have any bearing on the matter of German unification. We have no say in the matter and cannot affect it.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Perhaps the Jewish state does have something to say in this?

[Shamir] It certainly does. We have something to say, but we cannot influence. What we say is that in the past Germany hurt us in the most grievous way and that this crime will never be erased from our history, from their history, or from Jewish history. That crime was committed not because Germany was united at the time, but because it was Nazi, because it was like that.

Now that Germany is progressing and succeeding, when reality plays its role and the two parts of Germany unite, we say: We consider our relations with the FRG, or West Germany, as it is known. We had rather good ties. We would like to hope that this will continue even after the unification. We hope that united Germany will acknowledge its responsibility toward the Jewish people, and this must be expressed in an understanding for and in help and active assistance in maintaining Israel's security. We said this many times—to Genscher, Kohl, and the German president.

['AL HAMISHMAR] This understanding was not mentioned in the unification declarations.

[Shamir] We regret that this was not included in the unification documents, and said as much. When the German representative gave us a copy of the declaration, I told him that we were disappointed that this principle was not introduced into the German unification documents.

['AL HAMISHMAR] We believe the Israeli public expected to hear remarks like those that were voiced by the Knesset speaker and the Foreign Ministry director general, for instance. But we did not hear them from the government echelon on the eve of the unification.

[Shamir] We heard what I have just said. The world heard what we have to say, and we repeated it a number of times. The Knesset speaker expressed his thoughts and feelings. Fine, I respect that.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do we now expect Germany to help us absorb the massive wave of immigration from the USSR?

[Shamir] Certainly, certainly.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Have we approached them on the matter?

[Shamir] We have. There have been discussions recently, and others are going on. Now more comprehensive negotiations on the reparations, the compensation, will begin.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Can the German money replace U.S. aid in this context?

[Shamir] No, no. Let us not entertain any illusions. The basis is the reparation agreement that was signed at the time only with West Germany, and mentioned explicitly two-thirds [referring to territorial and proportional size]. This means that at least one-third should be put at our disposal. The question is how that one-third should be evaluated today. That is what the negotiations will focus on.

['AL HAMISHMAR] In light of the fact that the Israeli Arabs are witnessing a massive wave of immigration, what do you as prime minister have to say to the Israeli Arab minority, which regards itself these days as part of the Palestinian people?

[Shamir] I think they understand very well that aliyah for us is part of our life, our being, and that there is no point opposing it. It must not affect them, and will not denigrate from their rights. Everyone knows that aliyah in general, not only from the USSR, is part of the State of Israel's reality. I see no room for any special position by the Israeli Arabs.

['AL HAMISHMAR] But they are taking a special stand.

[Shamir] That is true. They are being dragged behind the Arab hysteria which has spread all over the world against this aliyah. They talk. They say that this is the second holocaust after the 1948 disaster. Did they ever think that Jews would no longer come to Eretz Yisra'el? Then they must have deluded themselves. This is an illusion.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are we prepared to absorb the immigration?

[Shamir] Without a question. We must absorb them. We must do everything to absorb them. This is our duty.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Why has this government failed to prepare for this?

[Shamir] It did, and continues to prepare for it. This is a gigantic task and it is not at all simple, but we work, we do things. To boot, those who have come so far have been absorbed the way they have been. No one sleeps on the streets, no one is hungry. This has not solved all the problems yet. Aliyah continues, and those who arrived before must also find accommodation and a permanent job. The entire government operations are geared toward that, and in this I include our economic and social activities. Everything is directed toward it. The cabinet has recently voted on new housing and employment plans as well as on a comprehensive economic program. It is all intended to create more massive possibilities for the absorption of this great immigration wave. Implementing the plans we decided on is no simple feat. After all, this is the current cabinet's fourth month only.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is there no danger that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] might shake the government's stability [due to the investigation of Interior Minister Der'i] in the next few days?

[Shamir] There are always perils. The government, after all, does not have a massive Knesset majority. I think we will overcome this. I hope the threats will not be implemented. I believe it is not at all logical to draw political conclusions from the problems that that party currently has with legal or police matters. How are these related?

['AL HAMISHMAR] They link the two.

[Shamir] I hope they will not go too far. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you think Agudat Yisra'el will join the coalition soon?

[Shamir] I very much hope so.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Have you held contacts on this?

[Shamir] Such contacts are definitely being held, and there is a chance that they will join the coalition. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] In hindsight, are you pleased with the fact that you are heading a government without the Labor Party?

[Shamir] I have always preferred a unity government, that is very well known. I am not happy with the fact that a unity government does not exist now, but it was impossible to set one up because it would have been a unity government without unity. This government is a little bit narrower, and suffers the resultant limitations, but it has greater unity.

['AL HAMISHMAR] There are hitches in this government as well, for example, between David Levi and Moshe Arens.

[Shamir] This is highly exaggerated. These are very minor hitches, if you can call them that. They do not affect the government's performance.

['AL HAMISHMAR] If elections are brought forward, will you see yourself as the Likud leader once again?

[Shamir] I do not know. It depends on when this will happen and on how I feel.

['AL HAMISHMAR] The immigrant absorption minister has charged the Finance Ministry with sabotaging plans to absorb aliyah.

[Shamir] Every government goes through interministerial friction. It is necessary to overcome them. We will.

['AL HAMISHMAR] But to go back to the political plane: Do you not regret having, in fact, torpedoed the Baker plan?

[Shamir] I did not do that. I think the Israeli Government's peace plan was foiled. All the various proposals that were raised, not by us, after we came out with that initiative, were the ones that put the kibosh on the initiative. They simply struck it off, or bent it, diverting it from the course it should have taken.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you not sense that something funny is happening when Defense Minister Arens meets with Baker and reaches certain agreements, and then David Levi goes and reaches different arrangements?

[Shamir] Not with Baker. The defense minister met with the U.S. secretary of defense.

['AL HAMISHMAR] No, the reference is to Arens when he was foreign minister, in February. He reached an agreement with Baker on the five points. David Levi then went and reached another arrangement with Baker on the guarantees. Every time the foreign minister reaches an agreement with the secretary of state there are certain misunderstandings.

[Shamir] There is no contradiction. At that time the foreign minister was Moshe Arens; now it is David Levi. These are different issues.

['AL HAMISHMAR] But it is the same Baker.

[Shamir] True, it is the same Baker. Then the discussions were over the implementation of the initiative, the peace initiative, while today the talks no longer center on the initiative, because of the Gulf crisis. Among other things they discussed the guarantees for the loan for housing. I do not see any contradiction or anything wrong here; it is natural.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Let us move on to the economic issue. Does Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i enjoy your full support, despite the bad aftertaste from before?

[Shamir] Certainly, certainly. If he is finance minister, I support him completely. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the Ostrovsky case finished?

[Shamir] It definitely is. It was a sorry case, and that is it. Let us hope this is the last such incident.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is there no intention of bringing him to Israel for trial?

[Shamir] There is no such intention.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Why did you agree to press charges against him?

[Shamir] The problem was how to prevent that man from spreading lies, and someone thought it was possible to prevent it. It did not work.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Will you be involved in the selection of the next chief of staff?

[Shamir] To the extent that a prime minister should be involved in this.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Meaning that you have an opinion?

[Shamir] As usual, the procedure is that the defense minister suggests someone, then consults with the prime minister, and later brings it to the cabinet.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you think this will be done in the near future?

[Shamir] We are talking about the next 12 months. [passage omitted]

Nation To Attend Arab League Meeting on Israel

JN1110165990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Jordan has consented to a request by the state of Palestine for an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at foreign minister level to discuss Israel's aggression against Palestinians in Jerusalem. This brings the number of Arab countries favoring the Palestinian proposal for a league meeting to seven. In addition to Jordan, they are Iraq, the Republic of Yemen, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, and the Sudan.

Jordan's agreement on convening the session was conveyed to the Arab League Secretariat in Tunis today.

Protests Continue of Al-Aqsa Mosque Incident

Embassy Workers Stage Strike

JN1110071790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 11 Oct 90 p 11

[Text] Amman—Workers at the American Embassy building project in 'Abdun [neighborhood of Amman] have denounced the ugly Israeli massacre against civilians in Holy Jerusalem and announced a three-day strike. They urged the international community to implement all UN Resolutions on the Palestine question and recognize the Palestinian people's right to all of their occupied territories. They also urged the departure of U.S. troops and their allies from the Arab region and lifting the economic blockade imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people.

Prince Hasan on Violence

PM1110084290 Paris LE MONDE in French 10 Oct 90 p 6

[Francoise Chipaux report on interview with Crown Prince Hasan 8 October; place not given: "'Crime At a Time of Great Tension'"]

[Text] Amman—"A crime at a time of great tension in the Gulf crisis and when international forces are being deployed in the region and on the territory of two of Islam's holiest places—Mecca and al-Madinah." This was how Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan responded, in a conversation with LE MONDE 8 October, to the massacre in Jerusalem, while several protest demonstrations were expected Tuesday in Jordan, organized by political, trade union, and womens' organizations. Deputies, normally on vacation, will also hold an emergency session to discuss the situation in the occupied territories.

At a time when there is increasing talk of a link between a solution of the Gulf crisis and the solution of all the region's problems—and, first and foremost, the Palestinian issue—this event will impart a new boost to the debate. This, especially in Jordan, where the population as a whole supports Iraq, not so much out of any attachment to Saddam Husayn as out of an anti-Americanism nurtured by what is perceived as Washington's unconditional support for Israel. All eyes are now on the UN Security Council, which is expected this time to adopt concrete measures and not to confine itself solely to "an ineffective condemnation," as one PLO leader stressed Monday.

Though refusing to establish a direct link between the Gulf situation and the Palestinian question, Prince Hasan—who since the start of the crisis has striven tirelessly to explain Jordan's position, widely misunderstood precisely on account of the people's reactions—referred to "the bitter feelings of the young people in the occupied territories." He stressed in this regard that "for them it is not a matter of international action to end the annexation of Kuwait but a matter of what they can clearly see, namely, the continued failure to implement the Security Council resolutions with regard both to the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories and to the annexation of Jerusalem." "They also see," the prince continued, "a veto (America's) on sending a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories, rather than this regrettable action undertaken by extremist Jews to construct a temple on Temple Mount." "I cannot understand why this provocation is taking place now," Prince Hasan said; "I know that it does not represent the feeling of all Jews. But I am afraid that we are moving toward a polarization of the Muslim-Jewish-Christian confrontation."

Without seeking to pass judgment on the legitimacy of the people's perception, according to Prince Hasan the situation has become so explosive that it could turn into a regional conflict and, he said, "from the Muslim viewpoint, the presence of foreign forces—and especially non-Islamic forces—in the Gulf lends credibility to the idea of a new crusade." "The difficulty that I have had in recent weeks," he stressed, "is in trying to convince our western interlocutors that there is a difference between taking measures consistent with international law to restore Kuwait's sovereignty and trying to explain these actions in terms clearly understood by the region's peoples. There is a vast difference between the international perception of what is good for the region's security and actual conditions here." "Could such an act create a diversion from the Gulf crisis?" Prince Hasan wondered. "Does such a diversion mean that the Israelis or some Israeli hawks believe, on the eve of a visit to the region by a European foreign minister, that they can show how very important security in Israel remains and that the Arabs are unreasonable?"

Whatever the significance of the action, according to Prince Hasan, "the fact remains that a violent Palestinian reaction came in response to a provocation (by Jewish extremists)." "I believe," he said, "that what happened was an explosion of anger stemming from a profound feeling of injustice experienced by the Palestinians." The Jordanian Government, which "sharply condemned the deliberate crime committed by a group of Jewish nationalist extremists," has for its part urged the international community "to intervene immediately to end these inhuman practices of Israel's and to protect the Palestinian people."

Paper Warns of Arab Reaction

JN1010081790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Oct 90 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Our Single War From Jerusalem to Mecca"]

[Text] It is our single holy war:

For while a British frigate was intercepting an Iraqi boat fearing that it might be carrying milk for Iraqi children or medicine for Iraqi patients, Zionist soldiers were storming the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard and firing their racist bullets at the children, old people, and youths of Palestine.

It is our single holy war:

For while planes, tanks, and helicopters are sowing corruption on the land of the Arabian Peninsula and laying siege on Mecca and al-Madinah; and while enemy and "fraternal" soldiers are taking positions hostile to Arabism and Islam, Zionist vehicles, helicopters, and troop carriers were chasing Palestinians inside the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard and in the streets and alleys of Ramallah, razing them with the bullets of hatred and racism.

It is our single holy war:

In an arena extending from the point where the prophet started his night journey [Mecca] to the point where he ascended to the seven heavens [Jerusalem]; from the black stone [Mecca] to the holy rock [Jerusalem]; and from Muhammad's tomb [Medina] to the holy rock; those Arabs who have not betrayed their nation are confronting all this alliance which is aimed at the nation, and those Arabs who have never disappointed their nation are facing this hostile camp which is aimed at the homeland its advancement, pride, honor, and right to justice, peace, and stability.

The martyrs who fell yesterday did not sacrifice their lives only for the sake of the holy city and its sacred al-Aqsa mosque and minarets, but in defense of every Muslim holy place and every inch of Arab territory as well as for the glorious day which the enemies do not want to see because on that day we will raise our heads high with honor and pride.

It was not the Israeli soldiers or settlers who fired the racist bullets yesterday on defenseless Palestinians and in the Jerusalem holy mosque courtyard, but the American, British, French, and Arab soldiers under the enemy shield. They were the ones who pulled the trigger of the Israeli rifle and let the pure Palestinian blood flow on the stones and courtyard of al-Aqsa.

What a great shame this is for the enemy camp! What a great shame this is for Washington, London, Paris, and all the other capitals which are beating the drums of war against Iraq, encouraging all our enemies to commit a mistake, and prompts them, alongwith with our own brothers, to shed Iraqi blood just as Palestinian blood was shed yesterday, to kill Iraqis just as Palestinians were killed yesterday, and to desecrate Iraqi holy places just as they did yesterday when firing the bullets of hatred on the imams of mosques and also on worshippers, children, old people, and angry youths who preferred paradise to life, and death to seeing their homes being tramped under the feet of the invaders.

What condemnation can do justice to yesterday's outrageous massacre?

What condemnation can do justice to al-Aqsa's outrageous attack?

Where is the international legitimacy when Palestinians are killed, Iraqis are starved, murderers are hired, and blood suckers are rewarded?

There remains one big question: Why is the enemy easily provoked and ready to commit massacres on the pretext of defending its holy places, while some Arabs and Muslims are not provoked when they see Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem desecrated, stormed, and distorted and Arabs and Muslims killed inside holy places?

It is our single holy war:

Let the enemies in Washington, London, Moscow, Paris, Ankara, Riyadh, Cairo and elsewhere beware of the anger of the Arabs and Muslims. We have had enough. We have lost patience. Doomsday is only a step or an hour away.

It is the anger which will wipe out everything. Let God's victory be for those who have trust in His justice, might, and vengeance.

Prime Minister on Armed Training for Citizens

JN1110124290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11-12 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T)—Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Wednesday [10 Oct] that preparations were under way to increase the number and activities of the military training centres and to provide arms for the People's Army in implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's directives.

The training is being conducted under the supervision of the Armed Forces at training centres at universities, community colleges, and secondary schools so as to provide the chance for training to the largest possible sector of the Jordanian society in all governorates, the prime minister said at a meeting with a joint committee representing the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament.

The joint committee, which includes the speakers of the two Houses, called on the prime minister to review with him the current situation in the region and its impact on Jordan as well as precautionary measures being taken at the official and public levels to deal with the consequences and looming dangers, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

A spokesman for the joint committee paid tribute to the Jordanian leadership, which had been offering sacrifice in serving the Arab Nation and regaining the usurped rights."

The committee also underlined the need to safeguard national unity which was represented in the cohesion of various factions of the Jordanian people rallied behind the Jordanian leadership, Petra said.

The committee stressed the importance of expanding the People's Army's activities and arming the Jordanian people so as to confront dangers and deal with the Zionist challenge and urged the government to enhance the activities of the civil defence authorities.

Committee spokesman urged the government to ensure sufficient stores of food supplies, fuel and water and expressed the Jordanian people's readiness to offer sacrifice and to contribute towards bolstering the domestic front in the face of challenges and threats, Petra said.

The prime minister stressed that cohesion among the people constitutes one of the most important elements for the society's strength.

Many deputies had called in public speeches for arming the people in Jordan to face any eventuality, but the meeting with the prime minister seems to have been prompted by the current situation in the Gulf and Monday's massacre of Palestinians at al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

Several committee members put forth suggestions concerning the People's Army and arming the people, and the prime minister promised to study them and to put into practice those that can be carried out, Petra added.

It said that agreement was reached on holding another meeting next week when the committee members will be briefed on the govenrment's detailed plan in this regard and the steps taken by the government in response to the committee's proposals.

Columnist Urges Linking Gulf Crisis to Palestine

JN1010074390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 8 Oct 90 p 20

["Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "They Are Asking the World To Ignore the Palestine Question!"]

[Text] We do understand when Washington tries its best to prevent its Tel Aviv partners from playing any direct role in the Gulf crisis in the hope of separating this crisis from the Israeli role in the region. We do understand also when Tel Aviv repeatedly announces that it is not a party to the Gulf crisis, an announcement which we believe is contrary to the facts since Tel Aviv has been waging a campaign of hostility and threats against Iraq since the end of the Iraq-Iran war. Moreover, we do understand when Arab oil tycoons wash their hands of crucial Arab issues, headed by the Palestine question, to guarantee the privileges they are enjoying for surrendering the destinies of their homelands to their American protectors.

We do understand all that regardless of the sentiments and emotions it evokes. What we do not understand, however, is how an Arab official dares to come out and say that he has agreed with Mr. James Baker to separate the Gulf crisis from the Palestine question! Arab officials are declaring such stands at a time when the French prime minister speaks about the deep Arab wound caused by the Western double standard of quickly issuing and implementing UN resolutions against an Arab country and disrupting the issuance or implementation of those resolutions relating to the Palestine question.

Such talk is reiterated by other European officials, regardless of their intentions, who admit that a serious application of the UN resolutions relating to the Gulf crisis demands implementation of the resolutions relating to the Palestine question.

Arab leaders are not giving any attention to these stands with the view to developing them further. Not only that, these leaders are themselves making open statements and expressing opinions contrary to the European stands. They are asking the world day and night not to link the Gulf crisis with the Palestine question and not to pay any attention to this question on the consideration that absolute priority must be given to strengthening the U.S. presence in the region and taking vengeance on Iraq for the new position it has assumed as a major regional power.

This is strange indeed, because Washington itself is not so clear on this subject and is not as forthcoming in defending its presence as some of the Arab statements, which are acquitting Tel Aviv and turning attention away from its crimes. This is something which Israeli diehards have never dreamed of.

Linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestine question derives its importance and significance from several considerations. The first consideration is that the return of Kuwait to Iraq has constituted a direct threat to Western and U.S. interests. It is the duty of the Arabs to reassess their stands in order to make the West stop the great injustices resulting from Israeli occupation if Western interests are to be safeguarded.

The second consideration is that Tel Aviv constitutes a serious threat to all the Arab states, especially Iraq with its growing power and capabilities of real strategic parity with Tel Aviv. It is Iraq's right and pan-Arab duty to demand the removal of Israeli occupation and the implementation of UN resolutions in this regard if the West wants to guarantee its interests in the Gulf. Thus, oil could be used as a strategic commodity in the service of the pan-Arab cause, not in the service of subservience to the West and the United States in particular.

The third consideration is related to the integrity of international legitimacy if the international community indeed wants to use it as a criterion. The West is showing false concern about implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy. If this is the case, then all the resolutions stemming from international legitimacy should be implemented, especially those relating to removing the odious Israeli occupation.

All this underscores the existing objective link between the Gulf crisis on the one hand and the Palestine question and the issue of Israeli occupation on the other. The Arabs' current battle is essentially geared toward strengthening this link and securing Arab rights from the Israeli occupiers and their petty allies and tools.

Children Hold Pro-Iraqi Protest at U.S. Embassy

JN0510162690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 4 Oct (PETRA)—A group of children today demonstrated in front of the U.S. Embassy in Amman as an expression of Jordanian children's solidarity with Iraqi children, who are facing a shortage of foodstuffs and medicine as a result of the economic embargo imposed on them.

The children handed the U.S. ambassador in Amman a message addressed to U.S. President George Bush expressing the children's desire to have their voices heard by the world to remind it that there are children's rights represented by the right to obtain food and medicine and to live in dignity.

A group of children taking part in the demonstration also handed quantities of milk and medicine to a delegation of Iraqi children in front of the U.S. Embassy as a demonstration of Jordanian children's solidarity with the children of Iraq in their ordeal and to share their food with them.

The demonstration was organized by the Jordanian General Women's Federation.

Minister Confers With 'Big Five' Ambassadors

JN0910215790 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] The information minister, the acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, met the ambassadors of the five UN Security Council permanent members. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din expressed Jordan's deep concern at the Israeli systematic brutality against the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands. The minister said: Yesterday's crime calls for redrawing attention to the Palestinian cause in a manner that reflects international responsibility towards the issue. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din expressed hope that dealing with the Palestinian cause in the Security Council will reflect the same enthusiasm demonstrated on other regional issues. He told the five ambassadors that the international society bears special responsibility to push the peace process forward. They also have a responsibility to protect the Palestinian people and guarantee them their legitimate rights.

The information minister voiced concern at reports of Israeli seizure of keys to al-Aqsa mosque. Mr. 'Izz-al-Din said the government will follow the issue with great concern.

[Begin recording] ['Izz-al-Din] Actually, I have conveyed to the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council the concern of the Government of Jordan of what is happening now in Jerusalem, our dismay with what is happening, and we have asked specifically that all the world community, specifically the big five, would take more interest in finding a political solution to this crisis and will introduce a regime of protection to the West Bankers and to the Gaza area. I think this is the most essential think at this stage while our people are being killed, murdered every day in the West Bank. I think it is high-time, it is the real time to introduce a system by which the Palestinians could be protected until we reach a political settlement.

[Najm] What kind of reaction did you receive?

['Izz-al-Din] Of course, the PLO had introduced many suggestions regarding the protection of the Palestinians in the West Bank under occupation. Unfortunately, up til now nothing has been done. So, I believe that all the ambassadors listened carefully and have...[rephrases] they have taken the matters seriously and they will convey it to their governments.

[Najm] The Security Council is now faced with a very big challenge. Do you believe that these five permanent members of the Security Council will react in the same vigor and the same manner that they reacted to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

['Izz-al-Din] We hope so, and we are working in this direction. I believe that the Security Council was very effective and important body during the last two months and I don't see any possibility that this same body would not be as effective as it has been in relation to the Gulf crisis. So, we are emphasizing this point. We have made it very clear. We told everyone that we expect that the five will move and move very quickly to find a solution in one way or another to this question.

[Najm] Thank you very much.

[Chinese Charge d'Affairs in Amman Huan Huan in Chinese with English translation by interpreter] This accident is a crime created by the Israelis. It is the (?second) crime. So, that means the Middle East problems should be solved immediately and totally.

[Najm] Does your country intend to react to this massacre with the same vigor that it did to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

[French Ambassador in Amman Denis Bauchard] The president of the French Republic reacted this afternoon to this massacre in Jerusalem. And France is deeply choked by this massacre of innocent victims. And we are certainly preparing some initiative to avoid new events of this kind.

[Najm] What kind of steps are you planning?

[Bauchard] We think that, as you know, France is attached to meeting of international conference on the Middle East, especially which could deal with the Palestinian issue. We think that this kind of conference is now a matter of emergency and we will press in the United Nations for this kind of international conference dealing with the Palestinian issue. [end recording]

The Soviet ambassador said that his country has repeatedly called for an international peace conference. He said the Soviet Union condemns oppressive measures by Israeli occupation troops against the Palestinian population and called for an end to such acts against the civilian population.

Al-Qasim Meets PRC Counterpart in New York

JN0510145090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim met in New York yesterday with the Chinese foreign minister and discussed with him the Gulf crisis. Mr. al-Qasim stressed the need for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis to prevent a military confrontation in the region. The Chinese minister said his country supports all efforts toward this purpose.

Also yesterday the foreign minister, who was attending the General Assembly, met with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and discussed with him the situation in the Arab region in light of the Gulf crisis. Mr. al-Qasim explained the economic conditions in Jordan resulting from the implementation of the UN sanctions' resolution against Iraq. He asked that the United Nations take measures to help Jordan overcome its ecnomic difficulties in line with recomendations by the Security Council sanctions committee regarding aid to countries affected by the Gulf crisis.

Also in New York, foreign ministers from nonaligned countries yesterday demanded Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of its government. A statement issued after a ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement in New York expressed readiness to help resolve the problems between Iraq and Kuwait by peaceful means upon the full implementation of Security Council resolutions calling for an unconditional pullout from Kuwait.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Conference

JN1010205490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 10 Oct (PETRA) —A parliamentary delegation led by Tahir al-Masri, head of the House of Representatives' Foreign Affairs Committee, left for Uruguay this morning to participate in the meetings of the 84th conference of the International Parliamentary Union [IPU]. [passage omitted]

At the conference, Mr. al-Masri will deliver Jordan's speech on the latest developments in the Palestine question, the Gulf crisis, and Jordan's position on these issues. The delegation comprises Senator Amin Shuqayr; Deputy Dr. Ahmad 'Innab; Salih al-Zu'bi, secretary general of the Parliament; and Zayd al-Zurayqat, assistant secretary general for Arab and international parliamentary affairs.

Agricultural Plan Drafted; Minister Elaborates

JN0210211790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Oct 90 pp 1, 16

[By Khalil 'Abd-al-Salam]

[Excerpts] The "Food Security" Committee, recently formed by the prime minister, has drafted an emergency agricultural plan in light of the current circumstances in the region.

The plan makes several recommendations, the most important of which is the levy of fines on landowners and farmers who fail to exploit their agricultural lands by planting them with grain crops for the current season, especially lands that receive an average rainfall of more than 250 mm.

The plan allows farmers to use state-owned lands suitable for sowing grain crops free of charge.

The plan will be forwarded to the prime minister in its final draft within the next few days. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Minister Sulayman 'Arabiyat said in an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y that the current situation in the region requires actions and plans to deal with all possibilities.

He said the agricultural sector will inevitably be affected by the current situation in the region, and this requires an emergency adjustment plan.

He explained that the plan is basically designed to direct agricultural production to meet most of the community's food needs in the case of any possible disturbances in food exports or imports, and also to exploit all available agricultural resources. The plan also gives priority to the production of strategic crops such as grains, legumes, and fodder. It modifies production patterns, encourages farmers, and gives them incentives to use the land. The price of grains bought from farmers is expected to be raised by reasonable rates that may reach 10 percent in case of extraordinary circumstances. [passage omitted]

Government Denies Requesting Syrian Assistance

NC1110181790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese President's Office Information Bureau in Beirut on 11 October]

[Text] REUTER and AFP cited a presidential and governmental source as having said that President Ilyas al-Hirawi has asked Syria to provide Lebanon with military assistance.

The President's Office requests that all media not publish any report related to the president of the republic unless it is issued by the Presidential Information Bureau. Otherwise the President's Office will be compelled to deny such reports. No presidential source has issued such a report today.

Syrian Troops Reinforce Positions Around 'Awn

NC1110210990 Paris AFP in English 2050 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Beirut, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Syrian Army reinforced its positions around territory controlled by Lebanese Christian chief General Michel 'Awn late Thursday, local residents and security sources said.

Local residents said Syrian tanks, armoured vehicles, troop transports and jeeps were moving toward the frontline southeast of Beirut, facing the presidential palace where Gen. 'Awn has his headquarters.

The troop movements which started at 7 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) were continuing, local residents said. Syrian Army checkpoints in mainly Moslem west Beirut were left almost unmanned.

Security sources said the army had over the last 24 hours moved tanks, cannon, anti-mine devices and troop reinforcements to the frontline in the mountains southeast of the capital.

The operation follows a call from the Damascus-backed president, Ilyas al-Hirawi, for Syrian military aid to help the government extend its control over Lebanese territory, according to government sources.

Gen. 'Awn refuses to recognize President al-Hirawi and controls almost 300 square kilometres (120 square miles) of Christian territory in the al-Matn region, home to around 500,000 people.

The government has imposed a blockade on al-Matn since September 28 to pressure the general, who has rejected a year-old Arab peace plan for Lebanon because it failed to call for the withdrawal of Syrian troops.

Around 35,000 Syrian troops are deployed in the mainly Moslem region of the country.

Military Reasserts Plan To Stop 'Awn

NC1210052790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The current atmosphere indicates that quick developments to end the rebellion and impose the state's authority are expected. This is indicated by the intensification of measures and military concentrations around the rebellious area.

Large military units last night moved toward the contact lines in the Southern Suburb and the mountain, from Mar Mikha'il to al- Laylakah, al-'Amrusiyah, and al-Shuwayfat. These units are supported by tanks, heavy artillery, bulldozers, and anti-mine vehicles.

A ministerial source has emphasized the seriousness of the new measures. He regarded them as a final warning which will have to be followed by a decisive action. He said: The next two days will be sufficient to manifest a new picture of the situation, especially as the joint Lebanese-Syrian concentration comes this time amid regional and international conditions different from those which prevailed 10 months ago.

The ministerial source added: The Syrian forces are not meant to just cause terror, nor are they a demonstration. The deployment decision has been made at the highest level. It was made after all diplomatic means were exhausted, and after Arab, European, and Vatican initiatives have failed. The latest of these initiatives was the one made by Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente.

According to security reports, a Lebanese Air Force plane flew over the B'abda area ['Awn's headquarters], drawing antiaircraft fire. The reports also spoke about the announcement of measure number 3 in the Lebanese Army, the cancellation of leave, and the summoning of all troops to join their units immediately.

High-level military sources said yesterday that there can be no retreat from the plan to end General 'Awn's rebellion. The issue is clear: Either the state and legitimacy will fall, or the rebellion will end. The sources said: The measures on the ground have begun, and there can be no retreat. The timing of military action is up to the military commanders, and will be known when it takes place.

The sources added: The political decision has been made by the cabinet. It called on the Lebanese and Syrian Armies to end 'Awn's rebellion and impose the state's authority.

No Orders To Attack

NC1210131090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] REUTER has cited official sources as saying that President Ilyas al-Hirawi needs to topple General Michel 'Awn soon. REUTER cited a high-level security official that the forces deployed on the lines facing the areas under 'Awn's control have received no orders to wage an attack, but were instructed to remain in a state of alert. REUTER cited a government source as saying that the president is convinced that 'Awn will not surrender peacefully.

'Thousands' Stage Pro-'Awn Sit-in at B'abda

NC1210051290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Last night, the radio of former Army commander General Michel 'Awn said that military movements were observed in a number of Lebanese areas and are being monitored by the competent security authorities.

The Central Bureau for National Coordination and the new Lebanese Front, both of which are pro-'Awn organs, called for a sit-in which began last night in the courtyard of B'abda palace. 'Awn's radio said that the sit-in is in defiance of anyone who wants to undermine the free areas, and in rejection of the supporters of agentry and treason.

The same radio said that thousands of citizens have gathered in the house of the people, including officials and public figures.

'Awn made a statement saying: We are not afraid of military action and assassination. We are not afraid of the criminals, their actions, and their decisions. The free man who acts upon his conscience has no fear. Our conscience is at ease, our faith is unshaken, and we are not afraid of danger.

In another development, clashes involving the use of machine guns and rockets took place in the eastern areas this morning.

'Awn Comments on Supporters

NC1210064690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0600 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Former Army commander General Michel 'Awn has said that he is taking the threat seriously. In a joint interview with AFP and France-Inter radio, 'Awn said that he takes the military buildup seriously because it is of an offensive character. 'Awn underlined his resolve to stand his ground by saying: I will not let our people down. I have made a decision to resist because I cannot consider what is taking place as mere psychological pressure. Agreement cannot be reached, nor can dialogue be conducted at gunpoint. Guns can be used to plunder but not to bring about agreement.

Since midnight, Gen. 'Awn's supporters have been assembling at the courtyard of B'abda palace in answer to a call by the Central Bureau for National Coordination [CBNC] and the new Lebanese Front for a sit-in.

'Awn commented on the sit-in by saying: This is a great day in the history of Lebanon. 'Awn voiced the belief that this is the last stage in the Lebanese crisis. 'Awn assailed the president, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and the prime minister, describing them as a troika that derives its power from abroad. 'Awn answered a question by saying: Military action and the threat of assassination do not intimidate everyone.

The CBNC has called for a strike today, Friday, and for a sit-in at B'abda palace.

'Awn Surrounded, Prepares for 'Last Battle'

LD1210004090 Paris Domestic Service in French 2300 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Another source of tension in Lebanon: General Michel 'Awn's Christian enclave has been surrounded this evening by thousands of Syrian soldiers backed by tanks and artillery.

They have taken up positions on the frontline in East and South Beirut and in the mountain areas overlooking the Christian enclave. (Florence Leroy) has just contacted General Awn in his Ba'abda Palace.

[Begin recording] ['Awn] We are at present besieged by offensive forces; in short, we are surrounded on all sides. All the approaches are now in the hands of attack units, and they continue to sweep across the region. The nearest one is 1 kilometer away. There are many of them: Units, special forces, and Syrian commandos. Everything will go up in flames, the whole horizon. I think that this is going to be the last battle.

[(Leroy)] Are you ready to fight to the end?

['Awn] Certainly, I am ready to fight, regardless of the outcome. We have no choice. They are coming to kill us whether we fight or not. This is our existence, our life. We are defending our lives, whether we win or lose. It is a question of principle to give in or not to give in. We will not accept it. [end recording]

Denies French Asylum Rumors

LD1210092990 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Excerpt] If the Middle East is a powder keg, the explosion cannot be that far off. After the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, international military intervention in the Gulf, the shooting in Jerusalem, and the revival of the Palestinian question, there is Lebanon again. All this makes a lot of tinder around the powder keg.

All night long, Syrian reinforcements have been heading for the Christian hideout of General 'Awn. According to witnesses on the spot, reinforcements consist of thousands of soldiers and a considerable quantity of equipment, including tanks and artillery units. For their part, the supporters of the Christian general have started massing in front of Ba'abda Palace in case an attack takes place.

France is reported to be attempting to mediate to avoid a confrontation. It was rumored a few hours ago that

Paris wants Gen. 'Awn to depart into exile. 'Awn denied this in an inteview with Noel Vely of RFI. France could not do this, he said.

[Begin recording] ['Awn] France is well informed about what is going on in Lebanon. It is well aware of Gen. 'Awn's popularity. This is why it would never make such a request. I think France will defend Gen. 'Awn rather than ask him to leave.

[Vely] You think that France defends you?

['Awn] It defends the Lebanese people, not me personally. It defends what I represent for the Lebanese people.

[Vely] What will you say, what will you do, and what will you ask from the Lebanese population in the event of a Syrian attack?

['Awn] The Lebanese people are mobilized right now. The people have barricaded all the streets. Everyone is ready to defend himself, in the villages, in Beirut, and everywhere. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Birri Says 'Decisive Resolution' Begun

NC1210134090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Amal Movement leader and Minister Nabih Birri declared at a news conference this afternoon that the phase of decisive resolution has begun and that the Army is entrusted with ending the rebellion. He said the first and final blame falls on Michel 'Awn, who has rejected every peaceful proposal on the basis of his motto: Either the Palace or the Grave. Birri said: We are now administering the final remedy; namely, cauterization. The phase of decisive resolution has begun and there is no going back.

Minister Birri added: We caution that any foreign state that stands against Lebanon in its unification battle will be regarded as hostile to the Lebanese people and endangers its own interests in the area. We warn that we will treat such a state, whatever it may be, as a real enemy. There is no need for reminders that the Lebanese can defend themselves against even the big powers.

Asked what comes after 'Awn's phase, Minister Birri said: The militias must fuse with the homeland. The cabinet's decision on dissolving the militias within a specific period is very clear. No one has any problem regarding this matter, beginning with the Amal Movement.

Israeli Movement, Reinforcements in South Reported

NC1210063990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Reports from the South this morning spoke of Israeli military movements in the western al-Biqa' area. According to a security report, the enemy forces reinforced their positions with equipment and men and brought in heavy artillery.

Israeli gunboats conducted patrols in Lebanese territorial waters between Sidon and al-Naqurah and opened fire toward the coast.

Further Reaction to Al-Aqsa Mosque Violence

Al-Shar' Condemnation

JN1210060590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has condemned the massacre committed by Zionist occupation troops against Arab citizens in the Jerusalem holy mosque on Monday. In a statement to AFP, al-Shar' called on the UN Security Council to strongly denounce this savage massacre. He stressed that acts of violence against Arab citizens under the Israeli occupation will only make the Arab nation more determined to regain its rights. He said that Israel will not be able to impose its will, regardless of the means it employs.

Al-Shar' also stressed Syria's adherence to the return of rights to their rightful owners and the achievement of a just and lasting peace within the framework of an international conference held under the aegis of the United Nations. Al-Shar' said this position has no connection with the Gulf crisis, because Syria has been and is still calling for convening an international peace conference since the October 1973 war. He also said there is no connection between this conference and the Gulf crisis. Al-Shar' added that the Palestine question is a conflict between the Arabs and Israel, while the Gulf crisis has, regrettably, resulted from an inter-Arab dispute.

Women's Group Protests

JN1110195590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1650 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 11 Oct (SANA)—Arab women staged a sit-in today at the headquarters of the International Red Crescent Society in Syria, in denunciation of the brutal massacre carried out by Israeli occupation forces against Palestinian Arab citizens last Monday in the Jerusalem holy mosque courtyard.

Representatives of the General Federation of Women in Syria, the General Federation of Palestinian Women, and Arab women's organizations participated in the sit-in.

A delegation handed a message denouncing and condemning this massacre to the representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross, addressed to Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations. The message strongly denounced this ugly, bloody crime perpetrated by the Israeli enemy against our Palestinian Arab people, which led to the killing of more than 30 martyrs and left hundreds of others injured.

The Arab women demanded firm measures be taken to deter Israel. They also demanded denunciation of Israel's crimes against the unarmed Palestinian people. They called upon the international community to send an international fact-finding team to investigate the massacres.

The women also asked the international community to protect our Palestinian Arab people from the Zionist machinery of oppression and repression, and to extend urgent support to them.

The message said that the massacre perpetrated by Israel in the al-Aqsa holy mosque was aimed against the Palestinian people, land, history, and sanctities. It also aimed at Judaizing Arab Jerusalem while the entire world watches, in disregard of charters, treaties, and resolutions concerning the Palestine question approved by the United Nations, the Security Council, and other international bodies.

Radio Commentary

JN1110145390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The latest thing invented by the intellect of those who are trying to justify and defend the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is the proposition that this action will help to liberate Palestine from the yoke of the Zionists and save the Arab homeland from the evil aggressive claws. Therefore, according to the logic of those people, the invasion should be viewed as an act of national liberation that should be welcomed and whose perpetrators should be supported.

We do not know how the occupation of Kuwait can become the basis for liberating Palestine. We have never heard of an enemy being defeated through seizing a brother's land, destroying his existence, and displacing him. The liberation of Palestine is neither a slogan nor high-sounding words; it is a duty and a struggle with its own conditions and many requirements. Events, particularly the glorious October war, have proven that the liberation of the land can only be achieved when the Arabs are strong, united, and in agreement on the priority of the Palestine question. Has the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait provided at least one of these conditions?

One look at the current Arab situation arouses sorrow, regret, and pain. This is natural, because the Arabs are not stronger after the invasion; on the contrary, they have weakened and retreated. The Arabs' strength is not mobilized now toward Palestine, but toward the Gulf to protect Arab countries there and curb the Iraqi threats against them. Does the weakening and fragmenting of Arab strength and diverting it away from Palestine serve the cause of liberating the occupied Arab territories? Certainly not.

The second condition for any liberation action is that the Arabs should be united in their position, or at least united in solidarity. It is obvious that the Iraqi invasion has torn up the unity of the Arab stance, weakened the institutions of common Arab action, and destroyed the positive beginnings toward understanding among the Arabs that appeared before last August.

The third condition for making the Arab struggle against Zionism effective is Arab consensus that the basic danger threatening the Arab nation is Israel. It does not require a great effort to know that a number of Arab countries now believe that the direct threat to them comes from Iraq, not from another source.

In addition to all this, the Iraqi invasion has created new problems and difficulties for the forces confronting Israel and its expansionist ambitions. The invasion has opened the doors of the Arab homeland to foreign presence, eased international pressure on Israel, dropped a heavy curtain on the most serious aggressive settlement plan against the Arabs—that is, the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

Thus, the facts show that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has inflicted heavy losses on the Palestine question, destroyed many achievements attained by Arab struggle in favor of Palestine, and rendered the opportunities for its liberation very distant.

We should now tackle another side of the issue—that is, the aspect pertaining to the position on the Palestine question of those who carried out this invasion, particularly since there are attempts to praise them and portray them as the preeminent strugglers, in fact, the only strugglers, for Palestine. The facts say that, during the last decade, the Palestine question has not gained one single point as a result of the behavior of those who invaded Kuwait. In fact, damaging the Arab struggle against Zionism is the major theme of their political practices.

Let us begin with the facts. They ignited the war against the Iranian revolution, which declared—from its beginning—its absolute hostility to Israel, turned the embassy of the Zionist entity in Tehran into an embassy for Palestine, and raised the slogan of liberating Jerusalem. The eight-year war destroyed the material capabilities of the two countries and exhausted their effective and productive manpower. During this period, the Palestine question retreated to its lowest point, most of the Arabs were preoccupied away from it, and many attempts were made to turn the conflict in the region with Iran, not with Zionism and its aggressive entity. Thus, the war against Iran did not serve the Palestine question. And nobody can say otherwise.

A second aspect that must be discussed is the result of Baghdad's embracing of some PLO leaders, and the reasons that prompted it to do so. Events have proven beyond doubt that the aim of Iraq's support for some Palestinian organizations was to tame the Palestinian revolution and render it helpless; to encourage defeatist streams inside it, strike at the anti-Zionist spirit in it, and to sow desperation and submission to cause these streams to throw themselves into the trap of capitulationist, liquidationist solutions. There is another aim; namely, employing Palestinians to settle scores with Syria. There is a third aim, moreover; to cloak the national and pan-Arab defects of the Iraqi regime in a Palestinian cover. During this period of alliance, fundamental setbacks in the Palestinian stand have taken place.

Another point that has stirred much media debate and uproar and political bidding is the situation caused by Iraqi statements on the intention to burn half of Israel. It is now known that the aim of these statements is to cover up secret contacts between Baghdad and Tel Aviv. President Husni Mubarak revealed, in his recent speech, some of these contacts, during which the Iraqi regime said that it had no hostile intentions toward Israel and that it would not obstruct any peace agreement reached by the parties in the Middle East. It is known that what is meant by this is not a comprehensive agreement on a just peace, but a unilateral deal among some Palestinian leaders and the Zionist entity.

What is worse still, is that Israel has capitalized on the Iraqi statements to build up its military arsenal and supply it with various kinds of the most modern weapons. So, does this conduct signal a desire to fight Israel? Of course not.

Someone who really wants to fight Israel—not through suspect statements—does not obstinately seek to undermine the basic anti-Zionist Arab force; that is, Syria. Neither does he conspire against it or provide Israel's agents in Lebanon with arms. Thus, the facts show that liberating Palestine has never been an objective of the Iraqi regime, neither before nor after the invasion.

Moreover, it is in the light of the above that we should view the special suggestion to link the solution of the problem in the Gulf to resolving other problems in the region, including the Palestine question. For, some parties have attempted to picture the whole thing as though Iraq is ready—urged by pan-Arab motives—to bargain its withdrawal from Kuwait with an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. As a matter of fact, Baghdad did not say a single word about withdrawal in its statement that contained this suggestion. Moreover, its subsequent positions all indicate that it is not ready to discuss this issue, because Kuwait has been annexed eternally.

We do not know how they invented this bargaining process. Even if it were true, however, the way to pressure Israel is clear; it does not come by the occupation of a fraternal Arab country and leaving its people homeless and drowning the Arab nation in myriad problems. This is matter of logic, because Israel does not feel any pressure in the occupation of Kuwait; it views it as a great gain. Having considered all these facts, on what basis, then, can we assume that Israel will agree to this bargain? And, on what basis, do some parties base their calls to link the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question? Those who make such calls want, in fact, to prolong the Gulf crisis and draw the Arabs into its whirlpool at the cost of deferring a resolution of the Palestine question. They know that a just and lasting solution to the Palestine question can never be realized except through building a strong and solid position that applies pressure. This will never be achieved unless the wedge driven inside the very structure of Arab solidarity by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is removed.

Afghanistan

Air Raids Destroy 'Extremist' Convoys

LD1010195390 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Four supply convoys belonging to the extremist groups were eliminated today by air raids of the armed forces in Do Bandi region of Lowgar Province, Tangi Sayidan and Shurabak of Vardak Province, and in the area of Shakar Dara district [Kabul Province]. As a result of these blows, 30 motor vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition of the extremists were completely destroyed in Vardak and Lowgar Provices. Dozens of weapons and hundreds of rockets and ammunition transported by 40 horses and mules were destroyed in the area of Shakar Dara district.

A thievish attack by the extremists was pushed back the day before yesterday by courageous resistance of the security posts of Lowgar Province, and heavy loss of life was inflicted on the enemy.

As a result of retaliatory firing by the courageous personnel of the Anwar and Nadir security posts two ringleaders of the extremists and a number of their men were killed and a number were injured; several of their weapons were also destroyed.

According to another report, a number of extremists including Abdullah, one of their ringleaders, were crushed in the area of Arghandeh and an ammunition depot was destroyed.

The armed forces of the country have recently put a headquarters of Gulbuddin extremist group in Tornal region, Vardak Province, under crushing blows. As a result of these blows, Salem, Muhammad Zahir Shah, and Zanday—three ringleaders of the Gulbuddin extremist group—together with a number of their men were crushed and a number were injured; dozens of their weapons and a large amount of ammunition were destroyed.

Resistance Launches 'Major' Kabul Offensive

75 Mujahidin Killed

BK1110140790 Hong Kong AFP in English 1402 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance has launched a major offensive aimed at capturing the capital Kabul, but government forces hit back and killed at least 71 mujahidin, an official spokesman said here Thursday. Two mujahidin columns advancing towards Kabul from the southern and western parts of the city's outlying areas were pushed back after heavy fighting Tuesday night and early Wednesday, the spokesman said.

He said 71 mujahidin were killed and their bodies recovered by government forces in Arghandeh 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of here. At least 31 resistance fighters were seriously wounded. The second mujahidin column was intercepted in the Khak-e Jabbar Region, also some 40 kilometers to the south, the spokesman said without giving casualty figures for that firefight.

He said the mujahidin group involved in the attack was the Hezb-e Eslami headed by fundamentalist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyr.

The spokesman did not reveal government losses in the two battles, which he described as the most intense in recent months, but said jet bombers, heavy artillery and shells were used against the infiltrators. No further details of the fighting were immediately available.

Diplomats here said President Najibullah had summoned them Thursday to explain the fighting and to assure them that his troops were capable of defending the capital. Mr. Najibullah also told the diplomats that Pakistan was behind the latest mujahidin offensive, which had been expected for some time because the fighting season in Afghanistan is nearing its end with the winter setting in.

The president also met with senior military commanders responsible for defending Kabul on Tuesday and gave them "specific instructions for the reliable defence of the city," an official said. Residents here have been hearing an almost continuous barrage of heavy artillery and medium-range rockets fired from government positions in Kabul towards the areas west and southwest of the capital in the past few days.

The government spokesman also said security forces foiled an attempt by the mujahidin to capture a government post in the Kuh-e Safi mountain region just northeast of here.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who returned home Thursday after attending the United Nations General Assembly session, told reporters that Pakistan was the main obstacle to a political settlement in the Afghan conflict. "All South Asian countries with the exception of Pakistan agreed on the need for a political settlement to the Afghan issue," Mr. Wakil said. He said Pakistan was "sensitive" to any regional initiative.

The foreign ministers of four of the seven countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with whom he had held talks last month appreciated Kabul's moves towards a political settlement, he said. "Sri Lanka said SAARC was not complete without the membership of Afghanistan," Mr. Wakil said.

SAARC comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Officials here last week accused the Pakistan Intelligence Agency, the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), of encouraging the mujahidin to launch an all-out offensive before any political agreement can be reached on Afghanistan. The attack on Kabul follows last week's successful capture by the resistance of the small central Afghan provincial capital of Tarin Kowt.

Air Force Retaliates

BK1210085790 Hong Kong AFP in English
0841 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 12 (AFP)—The Afghan Air Force Friday carried out heavy bombing attacks on mujahidin positions near the capital Kabul as the resistance launched a major offensive to take the city, officials and diplomats said.

Heavy artillery and medium range rockets fired from government beses here rocked the city through Thursday night and early Friday. Residents also observed intense air activity over the capital.

Diplomatic sources said Afghan Air Force jets were operating out of the Bagram Airbase, north of the capital, heading towards mujahidin positions about 40 kilometres (25 miles) to the south and southwest of Kabul.

The government Thursday said the mujahidin had launched a major assault overnight Tuesday aimed at overrunning the capital but security forces beat off the attack.

Fighters of the Hezb-e Eslami group led by hardliner Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and another faction headed by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf launched the two-pronged offensive from Arghandi to the west and Khak-e Jabbar to the southeast, an official spokesman said.

He added that the government had recovered 71 mujahidin bodies from Arghandeh while 31 were reported to have been seriously wounded. But casualties in Khak-e Jabar and the government's own losses were not immediately known.

Diplomats said the government had also taken heavy losses in the two battles fought with artillery, missiles and heavy and medium machine guns.

"By now both areas must have been bombed out of sight. So long as the government rules the skies, the mujahidin have no chance," a military attache here said.

President Najibullah summoned heads of diplomatic missions here Thursday to explain the military and political situation in the country and said his troops were capable of defending the capital.

"Mr. Najibullah said the guerrillas' plan had been to attack the city on October 10, but Gulbuddin started a day earlier," a diplomat who was at the briefing said.

The diplomat said Mr. Najibullah played down the loss last week of Tarin Kowt, the capital of Oruzgan Province in central Afghanistan, to the mujahidin.

Tarin Kowt fell after the governor and head of the police unit there defected to the mujahidin on October 3, in the first major victory for the resistance since Soviet troops backing the government withdrew in February last year.

"The government can face any frontal assault because it has superior fire power, but it would be different if there is collapse from within like in Tarin Kowt," a senior diplomat here said.

He said the government had already started shifting and removing "suspect" officers from senior positions in Afghan provinces and even in Kabul in a bid to prevent another Tarin Kowt episode.

The government had denied that senior military men had been arrested to prevent sabotage from inside.

Soviet Delegation Visits Hydroelectric Plants

LD1210080190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0518 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 11 BAKHTAR—A delegation of the Power Electricity Ministry of the USSR who had recently arrived to Kabul visited Naghlu and Mahi Par hydro-electric producing factories on Oct 10, 1990.

During the visit, while Col. Gen. Mohammad Baqir Tarin deputy minister of state security and B. Pastukhov, ambassador of the Soviet Union to Kabul were present, the guest delegation observed the work process of the said projects and promised his country assistance for the betterment of the affairs of the factories.

Khaliqyar Attends 9 Oct Legislative Session

LD1110070390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0434 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Kabul, Oct 10, BAKHTAR [dateline as received]—Fazl Haq Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and his cabinet members attended the sessions of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly "parliament" of the RA on Oct 9, 1990 and replied to the questions raised by the people deputies on the main report of the achievements of the government of the RA, scored in the course of the last four months, delivered on October 1, 1990 in the RA's parliament.

In the session, 56 people deputies raised their questions, proposals, criticisms and remarks which were replied in brief by Khaliqyar in a free and democratic atmosphere. Later on the main report of Khaliqyar on the achievements scored by the RA Government during the said span of time was unanimously approved by the people's deputies.

At the end the RA's prime minister in his speech addressing the parliament said that we are very grateful to find the opportunity to discuss with you on the prevailing situation of the country as well as on matters we had promised during obtaining vote of confidence.

Khaliqyar emphasized on the RA's Government has done its utmost for the materialisation of the aspirations of the people's deputies aimed at the wellbeing and tranquility of the people of Afghanistan. He went on to say that we have trust in people and their deputies and deeming ourselves as servants of the people and responsible against them.

Khaliqyar stated that we reflected the works that have been done and those that have been unfulfilled, the problem, the difficulties and the realities as they are, and we do not want to camouflage the issues from the peoples deputies. During these two days we noted some points and remarks from the statements of the people's deputies, which are the manifestation of the continuation of the calamities of war, as well as pains and requirements of the people.

He said that by availing of the gained experiences, I will assign necessary talks to the concerned organs of the government for fulfilling the demand of the peoples deputies at the extent that we have at our disposal, necessary measure will be adopted and the results of the achievements will be brought to your attention in time. [sentence as received]

At the end of the session Dr. Khalil Ahmad Abawi speaker of the House of Representatives, stated that one of the main characteristics of the Khaliqyar government is its close and direct understanding and contacts with the different strata of the people of Afghanistan, that can be surely counted as the activities of the government towards the great national tasks that had been placed before it.

Abawi emphasised that the participation of Khaliqyar and his cabinet members in the today's session of the House of Representatives is the embodiment of the good will and mutual cooperation between the House of Representatives the government of the RA, and this unprecedented event in the recent history of the country can be considered as an important step towards the consolidation of the mutual, beneficial and valuable relations between the legislative and executive organs of the RA's state.

Dr Abawi on behalf of the people deputies pledged all-out readiness and cooperation of the House of Representatives to the Khaliqyar's government for the solution of existing difficulties in the interest of the wellbeing of the people of Afghanistan.

Bangladesh

Opposition Strikes Against Police Brutality

Condemns Activists' Deaths

BK1110105190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1033 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 11 (AFP)—The Bangladesh capital Thursday was gripped by an opposition-called half-day strike to protest alleged police brutality and condemn the killing of at least six activists during violent anti-government demonstrations. An eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, seven parties dominated by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the left-leaning five-party alliance of Nirmal Sen called the strike after at least six activists were shot dead.

The six, according to the opposition, were shot by police and scores were injured including Begum Zia during a sit-in demonstration to revitalise an eight-year-old campaign against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. The government in a press note published Thursday admitted that five people were killed during the demonstration.

The note said that despite maximum restraint by law enforcing agencies two people were killed by police firing in Gulistan District and 40 members of the security forces were injured. It did not say how the other three died. The powerful Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) called a dawn-to-dusk stoppage to protest the killing of one of their fellow students Wednesday during the demonstrations.

Police and para-military forces patroled the streets in trucks and jeeps and some were posted at key city points. A police officer on duty said several thousand police had been deployed to thwart any possible violence. Except for pedal-driven trishaws, most other vehicles were off the streets and shops were shuttered. Most factories and offices were either shut or operating with skeleton staffs, witnesses and sources said.

Witnesses said small brawls broke out in several parts of the city including Nawabpur and areas close to the volatile Dhaka University. General Ershad, 60, seized power in a bloodless 1982 coup and has since been opposed by Bangladesh's mainstream opposition groups, who demand his resignation and the holding of free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Opposition groups and students also plan to hold mass prayers later Thursday over at least one of the bodies of those killed, which is being kept at the DUCSU office. The stoppage was also enforced in the southeastern port city of Chittagong where most shops and offices were shut.

Several home-made bombs rocked the city, but there were no immediate reports of other violence, sources said. Work in the country's largest port was hampered, officials said. The strike in Chittagong was called soon after opposition leaders had called for Thursday's stoppage in Dhaka.

Police Fire on Students

BK1110115390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 11 (AFP)—Police fired blank cartridges and hurled some 150 teargas bombs as at least 2,000 students from the volatile Dhaka University tried to leave the campus in a procession during an opposition-backed half-day general strike Thursday, witnesses said. Students threw stones in such rapid succession that police at one time withdrew and came back in trucks firing blanks. Some 25 people were injured, witnesses said.

The battle continued for more than three hours, before the students dispersed for mass prayers at the downtown Baitul Mukkarram National Mosque for those killed in police firing during violent demonstrations against President Hussain Mohammad Ershad Wednesday. Strike pickets meanwhile damaged several trishaws and burned two motor bikes which were defying the stoppage called by Bangladesh's major opposition political groups to condemn police brutality and Wednesday's killings.

Police and paramilitary forces patrolled the streets in trucks and jeeps and some were posted at key city points, as a dusk-to- dawn stoppage called by the powerful Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) to protest the killing of one of its students.

A police officer on duty said several thousand men had been deployed to thwart any possible violence. Except for the pedal-driven trishaws, most other vehicles were off the streets and shops were shuttered. Most factories and offices were either shut or were operating with skeleton staffs, sources said.

Opposition leaders announced after the mass prayers, guarded by truckloads of police, that similar prayers and protest rallies would be held across the country Friday. Witnesses said earlier in the day there were small brawls in several parts of the city, including Nawabpur and areas close to Dhaka University.

The stoppage was called by the eight-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League, seven parties dominated by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the left-leaning five-party grouping of Nirmal Sen.

The government in a press note published Thursday admitted that five people were killed during Wednesday's demonstration, which revitalised the eight-year-old campaign against Mr. Ershad after two years of opposition disarray.

The opposition said six were shot by police and scores were injured, including Begum Zia. The government said the demonstration also saw 40 members of the security forces injured. It said they had displayed "maximum restraint".

The press note said two people were killed by police firing in Gulistan District, but it was not known how the other three died. General Ershad, 60, seized power in a 1982 bloodless coup. Since then the mainstream opposition groups have been demanding his resignation and the holding of free and fair elections under a neutral caretaker government.

The stoppage was also enforced in the southeastern port city of Chittagong, where most shops and offices were shut. Several home-made bombs rocked the city but there were no immediate reports of violence, sources said, adding that police detained at least 20 people for picketing. Work in the country's largest port was hampered, officials said.

President Ershad Thursday said the opposition's violent activities had cost the country at least 14 million dollars. "A particular party with 200 to 500 miscreants resorted to activities destroying properties ... belonging to the innocent members of the public and the government," the official BSS news agency quoted him as saying at a rally in Itna, in northeastern Kishoreganj District.

Mr. Ershad appealed to the opposition to quit "the path of violence and terrorism and seek the peoples' mandate through elections if they had love for democracy." The opposition has denounced elections called by the government as unfair.

Opposition Groups End Strike, To Resume 12 Oct

BK1110135690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Oct 11 (AFP)—A half-day strike called by Bangladesh's major opposition groups ended quietly Thursday, with the promise of further rallies and protests Friday. But observers said the opposition had failed to achieve its goal of restoring the heat to an eight-year-old anti-government campaign.

They said the result of the call for a stoppage to protest "police brutality" in allegedly shooting dead six people during a demonstration Wednesday fell far short of suggesting an early departure of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Mr. Ershad, 60, has ruled this South Asian country with an iron fist since seizing power in a 1982 bloodless coup in the face of a hostile opposition demanding his resignation and free and fair elections.

During Thursday's stoppage, police fired blank cartridges and hurled some 150 teargas bombs as at least 2,000 students from the volatile Dhaka University tried to leave the campus in a procession. [passage omitted]

Opposition leaders announced after the mass prayers, guarded by truckloads of police, that similar prayers and protest rallies would be held across the country Friday.

The stoppage was called by the eight-party alliance led by Shaykh Hasian Wajed's Awami League, seven parties dominated by Begum Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the left-leaning five-party grouping of Nirmal Sen.

The government in a press note published Thursday admitted that five people were killed during Wednesday's demonstration, which was intended to revitalise the waning campaign to oust Mr. Ershad after two years of opposition disarray. [passage omitted]

Ershad Calls on Opposition To Shun Violence

BK1110163190 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] President Ershad has again called upon the opposition parties to avoid the path of violence and terrorism and seek people's mandate through elections. At a huge public meeting at Husna in Kishoreganj today, the president said more the opposition resorted to destructive activities, more they would be isolated from the masses. He called for building a strong public opinion against the destructive activities and said the people want peace instead of indiscipline and chaos.

Referring to yesterday's sit-in demonstration in Dhaka, he accused the opposition of provoking destructive activities that led to the loss of five lives, besides the destruction of public and private property. The president said the opposition had promised that they would stage the sit-in program before the secretariat peacefully and announce their political program after the demonstration; but, he said, the opposition did not keep their words and a particular party with 200 to 500 miscreants resorted to destructive activities destroying property worth about 40 to 50 crore taka of both the innocent members of public and the government.

The president said the government had instructed the police force to abstain from any provocation, and they demonstrated patience even in the face of serious provocations. The police, he said, took (word indistinct) action when the destsructive activities by a handful of people went against the (?law).

Ershad Holds Talks With Maldives Official

BK1110123290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0826 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 11 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on Thursday held talks with visiting Maldives Foreign Secretary Ibrahim Zaki on the next summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the official BSS NEWS AGENCY reported.

Mr. Zaki briefed the president on the summit, which is to be hosted next month by the Maldives, BSS said, adding that the two also discussed SAARC activities. The president assured the visitor of Bangladesh's cooperation in efforts to strengthen the seven-nation group, founded here in 1985, comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

India

Top Sikh Politician Resigns From Parliament

BK1210072390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0707 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 12 (AFP)—India's leading Sikh politician, Simranjit Singh Mann, Thursday announced that he was resigning his seat in the federal parliament in protest against the "colonisation" of the Punjab.

Witnesses said Mr. Mann, who leads 10 of Punjab's 13 parliamentarians in the lower house, delivered his resignation letter to the president of the House Secretariat, Mr. T.S. Ahluwalia, through his lawyer.

The bearded MP sat at the main gate of the parliament complex, prevented from entering because he was carrying a traditional three-foot (one metre) Sikh traditional sword.

Mr. Mann had refused to take the ceremonial oath that admits MPs to the house floor on the grounds that he was being discriminated against because of not being able to enter with his sword, a religious symbol of the Sikhs.

Ten of Punjab's 13 parliamentary seats were won by Sikh supporters of Mr. Mann, who quit the Indian police service after the 1984 June army raid on the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, which left some 650 people dead.

Bimal Khalsa, the widow of the slain Sikh assassin of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, also won a seat in the November 1989 parliamentary elections from Punjab, with backing from Mr. Mann's Sikh political faction, the Akali Dal (Mann).

Evacuation of Nationals From Gulf Ends

BK1010161590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] The massive program to evacuate stranded Indian nationals in Iraq and Kuwait comes to an end today. The last batch consisting of about 4,800 evacuees is being airlifted by 10 Air India flights and seven flights arranged by the International Organization for Migration—IOM. Flights will continue till the early hours of tomorrow morning. Our special correspondent Prabhakar Mishra reports from Amman that with the departure of the last batch today, the evacuation by Air India of 127,000 Indians is over. Tomorrow and the day after over 1,000 stranded Indian nationals, including those from Iraq will be evacuated by IOM flights.

Janata Dal Leaders on Chances of Midterm Polls

BK0710133290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, has said that the continuation of his party's support to the National Front government depends upon the political situation in the country. He was addressing a press conference in Jabalpur today. He said the BJP has decided to support the National Front government only to respect mandate given by the masses against the Congress-I rule.

About the possibilities of a mid-term poll, he said his party wanted the next elections in 1994, but it will remain prepared for the same anytime.

The former deputy prime minister and the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Devi Lal, has said that the National Front is not solely dependent on those who are threatening to withdraw their support to the government on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [Hindu-Muslim disputed shrine] issue. Addressing a farmers rally at Khajrala in Indore today, he said there is no possibility of mid-term polls in the country. On the Mandal Commission report, Mr. Devi Lal said the government should have consulted all state governments before implementing it. He regretted that its implementation has led to a deterioration in the law and order situation in the country following the antireservation agitation and self-immolation.

Kashmir Town Victims To Get Relief Package

BK0710104290 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] A comprehensive package of relief measures has been announced for those affected in the recent fire and violent incidents in Handwara Town in the Kashmir Valley. The package was announced by the home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, after visiting the town today. He was accompanied by the state governor, Mr. Girish Chandra Saxena, and his two advisers. The package, among other things, includes 100,000 rupees each to be paid to the next of kin of those killed, 10,000 rupees each to those seriously injured, and 50,000 rupees as a special relief to each family whose houses have been gutted. Over 2 crore rupees will be spent on providing the construction materials to 100 affected families. The home minister, who went round the town, also assured the next of kin of those killed that their cases for government employment will be considered. Relating their tale of woe, the residents who met the home minister complained about the hardships caused to them because of violence. Mufti Sayeed assured them that he had instructed the security forces to ensure that no harm and harassment is caused to the innocent people while dealing with terrorists. Before leaving for Delhi, Mufti reviewed the law and order situation with state authorities in Raj Bhavan [governor's residence].

BJP Leader Urged Not To Visit Disputed Shrine

BK1110133290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The Janata Dal general secretary, Mr. Satyaprakash Malviya, has appealed to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Mr. L.K. Advani, to immediately abandon his Rath Yatra [journey by chariot to the disputed shrine in Ayodhya] as, according to him, it is encouraging the very forces which are harmful for maintaining secularism. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said the center and the Uttar Pradesh government cannot compromise on matters where the sanctity of existing places of worship is concerned. No political party should support demolition of any religious place, he said.

29 Killed, 34 Injured in Kashmir Violence

BK0810034990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1713 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Jammu, India, Oct 7 (AFP)—Violence in India's northern state of Jammu and Kashmir Sunday left some 29 people dead, mainly in clashes between Moslem militants and security forces, police said. A senior paramilitary officer was among those killed in Srinigar, the state's summer capital, while about 600 houses and shops were gutted in fires that officials blamed on militants.

Another 34 people suffered bullet injuries in fights between paramilitary troopers and militants in Srinagar and elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley, police said, without specifying whether the injuries were serious. Troops armed with orders to shoot on sight anyone using violence were called out and an indefinite curfew was imposed on affected areas, police said.

The clashes erupted a day after a rebel-sponsored general strike to protest alleged excesses by Indian security forces crippled Srinagar and the rest of the valley. Srinigar residents contacted by telephone said militants fought troopers with automatic rifles, light machineguns and hand grenades.

Hundreds of people fled their homes after the clashes broke out at 11 Srinagar areas early Sunday, they said. Police said Deputy Commandant of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Rajinder Kumar, three more CRPF troopers and eight suspected militants were among those killed.

The remaining casualties were civilians who were burned alive, police said, adding that several exchanges of gunfire were reported between security forces and militants elsewhere in the valley. Officials said troops shot dead eight suspected militants at several places on the border with Pakistan-held Kashmir as they tried to illegally enter the Indian side overnight.

The PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said Kashmir's deputy inspector general of police, Azhar Alam, narrowly escaped when snipers opened fire at his car in Srinagar's Idgah District. Two of his bodyguards were wounded. The rest of Srinagar reported normal business after Saturday's strike closed shops, business establishments and restaurants in the Moslem-majority city and 26 other towns.

PTI quoted police as saying that suspected separatists shot dead a Moslem civilian, believed to have been targeted as a police informer, in the state's border region of Kupwara late Saturday. Some 1,725 people have died this year in violence linked to the Moslem separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. India and Pakistan, which controls the northern third of the state, have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since independence in 1947.

13 Killed in Punjab Separatist Violence

BK0810034090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1840 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 7 (AFP)—Indian security forces Sunday shot dead five Sikh separatists in Punjab while another eight people died in separatist violence in the northern state overnight, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said. Superintendent of Police P.S. Gill was quoted as saying five militants died Sunday after a gunfight with paramilitary forces at Majitha in Punjab's frontier district of Amritsar.

The news agency did not say whether the security forces suffered any losses in the sporadic exchange of gunfire, which lasted about five hours. Another eight people, including two unidentified Sikh militants, were killed in several incidents across Punjab overnight, PTI said.

The two militants died in a factional fight at Chahal Kalan village in Gurdaspur District late Saturday, PTI said without elaborating. Some 2,000 people have died this year in violence linked to a bloody militant campaign for an independent Sikh homeland called Khalistan, or "land of the pure," in Punjab.

Singh on Heavy Economic Strain From Gulf Crisis

BK1110124690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the Gulf crisis has put a heavy strain on India's economy and an economic war is being thrust on us. In his opening address to the 42d meeting of the National Development Council in New Delhi today, Mr. V.P. Singh said that the country will have to meet this threat resolutely by observing fiscal discipline and stepping up exports. He called upon the people to make sacrifices now; otherwise, he said, we will be engulfed by the Gulf crisis. He told the chief ministers to explain the situation to the people and take them into confidence. He also asked them that while steps should be taken to meet the challenges, it should be ensured that the impact on the core sectors of the economy is marginal.

The prime minister pointed out that with the present situation continuing, the country will have to spend additional 4,000 to 5,000 crore rupees on the import of crude oil.

Referring to the proposed modifications in the Gadgil formula on distribution of central budgetary support to the states during the eighth plan, Mr. V.P. Singh pointed out that the size of a state and social indicators be included in the criteria for determining this aid. He said the objective is to give some benefit to the relatively weaker states. He also said that the states which manage their finances better should get some weightage in central assistance.

On the right to work, the prime minister pointed out that it is related to the central problem of employment. He said the youth are restive today because of this problem and the states and the center should pay greater attention to the employment of the youth, particularly the educated unemployed. He suggested several measures to create more job opportunities, including diversification of agriculture into non-staple high-value crops, expansion of social infrastructure, and spread of education and health services, particularly in rural areas. Mr. Singh pointed out that the thrust of the eighth plan will be on employment and the strategy for investing 50 percent of the resources in rural sector will help promote job opportunities in rural areas.

BJP, Hindu Workers Arrested in Uttar Pradesh

BK1110145590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, about 7,000 workers of Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] and Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] were arrested today in different parts of the state for violation of prohibitory orders. According to the state home secretary, four BJP legislators have also been arrested on the apprehension of breach of peace.

Strike Affects Work in Oil, Fertilizer Sectors

BK1110160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The 48-hour strike called by the officers of the public sector undertakings today affected work in fertilizer and oil industries, but it failed to evoke any response in steel and power sectors. The Indian Airlines announced revised schedules for today and tomorrow because of disruption in supply of aviation fuel. In the fertilizer industry, 80 percent executives, mostly in the bigger units, are on strike, and in the oil sector, 90 percent officers are reported absent. Of the 12 refineries in the country, 11 have been shut down. The strike is also reported to be total in the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. In the chemicals and petrochemicals industries, the strike call has evoked partial response. The officers are protesting against the delay in the implementation of revised pay scales and grant of central DA [dearness allowance—cost of living allowance].

Iran

Khamene'i Decrees 12 Oct Day of Mourning

LD1110122190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Following the cruel crime of the usurper Jerusalem-occupying regime in martyring tens of victimized Palestinian Muslims, and on instructions from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader and the guardian of the cause of the world Muslims, tomorrow—before holding Friday prayers—ceremonies will be held at the Friday prayer sites throughout the country to honor the memory of the martyrs of that great calamity.

The text of the statement by the Central Secretariat of the Friday prayer leaders regarding this was released today. It reads as follows:

In the name of God. Once again the usurper Jerusalem-occupying regime has disparaged the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first Qiblah [point to which Muslims face for daily prayers—Mecca] of world Muslims, using bullets to spill the blood of tens of oppressed Muslim Palestinians, martyring or injuring them. It is a real cause for bewilderment that while various countries of the world have, in unison, adopted unified positions to demand the departure of the aggressor from Kuwait, they have remained silent toward this horrible crime or they have passed it by with a mere expression of regret.

Meanwhile, the criminal United States, which until yesterday was masquerading as a supporter of human rights and as being against aggression, has now vetoed the UN resolution condemning this crime.

These actions denote the enmity of the arrogance with the pure Muhamadan Islam—the faith which the founder of the Islamic Republic, His Eminence Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified- - desired its expansion and flowering in the contemporary world.

Condemning the horrendous and inhuman crime, the Central Secretariat of the Friday prayer leaders, in accordance with the order of the exalted leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—may his shadow lengthen—calls on the honorable Friday prayer leaders throughout the country, to hold memorial services for the martyrs of this great calamity at all the Friday prayer sites tomorrow, Friday, 12 October, prior to holding the Friday prayers, and thus make the immaculate souls of those dear ones happy through the heartfelt sound of reciting the honorable Koran.

We also call on the martyr-nurturing ummah of Islamic Iran to demonstrate to the world, through their massive participation in these ceremonies, their full support for the rightful struggles of the heroic peoples of Palestine and their combat preparedness to fight the Zionist occupiers.

Larijani Views U.S. Objectives in Middle East

NC0810180190 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr Javad Larijani, political adviser to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] 1. Aside from the occupation of Kuwait, U.S. interests and NATO needs to be redefined. This requires that new objectives, new members, new structure for the forces, and new bases be specified. The Iraqi action provided a pretext for the United States to expedite this process so that it might be forced to station its "prefabricated" structure despite unfavorable conditions! One of the results of this policy has been the deepening of the fissure between the United States and Europe and an escalation of regional reactions.

2. What are the redefined obligations of NATO? In an industrial world, the harnessing of Europe and in the Third World, the restraining of all movements geared against domination. The foremost of these movements is the Islamic revolution. These would be the NATO objectives, but its original members are of no use in pursuing them. They do not wish to take this responsibility of harnessing Europe, which will drive away the elements comprising Europe itself. Facts and figures in numerous analyses and the press confirm the delegation of an active role to Turkey and Great Britain. On the other hand is the axis of the United States and the Pacific (Japan).

One of the factors for the harnessing of Europe is control over the sources that provide oil for Europe, and it is foreseeable that at least two bases will be established in the Persian Gulf. These should be able to accommodate at least 500,000 troops and should have all the possibilities for appropriate operations in the region.

3. How does the United States wish to transform the region? The shameful experience in domineering has taught the Americans that there should be no hunger in the base of their domination, but neither should there be any abundance! "Dependence" is the key to resolving problems. The first step is "mental dependence"; that is, the people and their leaders in the region should first and foremost be made to believe that the path to their salvation lies in servility to foreigners and that they should feel secure under the shadow of the swords of the foreigners, and so on.

The present leaders of the region do not seem to have any difficulty regarding a "servile mentality," but they are simply shallow! It is not as if they do not want subservience, but perhaps they are not capable of continuing to cater to its demands! Therefore, it is not unlikely that all the present leaders may be replaced following the settlement of the Kuwaiti crisis and that some more useful ones specially groomed for the purpose may take their place.

Under such a policy, the wave of Islam-seeking which has been purified at its fountainhead of Islamic Iran will be seen as a source of difficulties. This Iran is reclining like a lion along the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

4. U.S. policy does not have much chance of success and cannot be durable. "The security provided by thieves" and the "security of aggressors" has been tested in our region, but despite some initial headway, such security has never succeeded!

Now it is the time for another experiment: Freedom and the security of the noble ones. The Islamic community should not forfeit such an opportunity and should extricate itself from the fetters of nationalism and pagan prejudices. It should grasp the cord of the revived sovereignty of Islam.

The Islamic ummah does not want an aggressor like Saddam, a servile King Husayn, and it does not need the infidel supremacy of the United States. Islam demands the forging of a sole Muslim ummah under the legitimate guardianship of the sharia. This is what our security, happiness and prestige rests upon today, and nothing else is important.

Velayati Addresses Majles Committee on UN Visit

*LD0810123490 Tehran IRNA in English
1102 GMT 8 Oct 90*

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Sunday briefed the Majles' Foreign Relations Committee on the outcome of his participation in the 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

He also reported on his talks with heads of states and foreign ministers of 65 countries, held in the course of the U.N. session.

The committee termed Velayati's speech at the session "successful", and decribed the foreign dignitaries' interest in holding meetings with the Iranian foreign ministers as an "admission by the international community to the righteousness of the Iranian position."

Paper Views 'Conditions' for U.S. Attack on Iraq

*NC2209101290 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
4 Sep 90 p 16*

['A. Marvi commentary: "Conditions for America's Military Attempt Against Iraq"]

[Excerpts] The current crisis in the Persian Gulf, which stems from the occupation of Kuwait by the Iraqi army and the increasing presence of the West's military units in the region, has entered a determining stage. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government will attempt military operations against Iraq under the following conditions:

—When Moscow agrees to a U.S. military attempt in the Persian Gulf;

—When Washington and its allies are confident that such an action will not entail turmoil elsewhere which might precipitate an increase in prices on the international oil market in the course of and after the military action;

—When the complete failure of the efforts by Arab governments and by the UN secretary general for a peaceful settlement becomes obvious;

—When Bush succeeds in convincing Congress of the advisability of expenditures for a military action against Iraq and also succeeds in enlisting the financial, political, and military contributions of Arab and non-Arab allies for that purpose.

—When the United States has the legal support of a Security Council resolution authorizing military action;

—When realistic progress is achieved in the search for a politically suitable successor to Saddam Husayn, whom Washington is trying to topple; and

—When the troops in the region have increased to form a basic foundation assuring the Americans of good results in an eventual confrontation with the Iraqi forces.

Washington's efforts to create these conditions and to pave the way for military operations against Iraq have been markedly successful during the past few days. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev's call for the Arab world to reach an agreement on a peaceful solution of the crisis continues to go unanswered despite the fact that the second session of the Arab foreign ministers was held in Cairo.

—Meanwhile, it seems that Washington is trying to win Moscow's total agreement on a military attempt against Iraq. The Persian Gulf crisis was created in an atmosphere of "detente," at a time when the two superpowers are effectively cooperating.

—The Pentagon is beefing up its forces in the region in both quantity and quality. This means that, if the current tempo continues, by mid-autumn the U.S. ground forces in the region will be equal to the Iraqi ground forces.

—Whether Washington will be able to help Iraq's internal forces against Saddam Husayn at a climactic point is still an open question. From the international viewpoint, the elements and conditions for a U.S. military action are being completed. Most of these will become obvious by mid-autumn or even sooner. But America's ability to organize an internal operation against the Ba'thists is limited, and Washington cannot afford to stop short of a military blow sealing Saddam's doom. This blow definitely must be complemented by political action inside Iraq to assure the United States of the results that it desires. Restricting the American attempt to a military blow could, for example, be exploited politically by Syria or could even release the political force of the Shiites and the Kurds in Iraq. The impact that these reactions might have on Washington is unknown. But Saddam has been able to expertly remove his opponents during the past few years, and this is a significant point—of course, not a deterrent—vis-a-vis America.

The more time passes, the more difficult the possibility of a political compromise between Washington and Baghdad will become. This type of compromise will humiliate the United States, will create a long-term threat to the Zionist regime, and will cause mistrust toward Washington among America's Arab friends in the region. On this basis, one can conclude that the prospects of a military attempt against Iraq and especially a military attempt by the United States against that country are stronger under the current conditions.

Paper Warns Arabs on U.S. 'True Nature'

*LD2309104690 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT
23 Sep 90*

[Text] Tehran, Sep. 23, IRNA—An English-language daily called for vigilance on the part of the Islamic Republic so that outside forces and developments in the arrogant camp would not influence its foreign policy.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' in its weekly international edition Saturday referred to the Iraqi invasion of Iran on Sept. 22, 1988 [as received] and said that Iran's stand has not changed a decade after the war was imposed on it. It stressed that U.S. presence in the region was harmful and that regional countries must reject it.

It warned the Arabs in the region to realise the true nature of the U.S. before it is too late and underscored that the U.S. is not a lover of peace and stability.

"Once Iran was singled out for destruction, today it is Iraq and tomorrow it will be the turn of other American friends in the region," it said.

Touching on the U.S. reaction to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the daily said that the Pentagon is displaying its latest technology in the Persian Gulf while the U.S. Administration is lobbying for anti-Iraqi votes in the U.N. to isolate Baghdad.

It mentioned the dispatch of senior American officials to various countries "to exact international commitments for the U.S. cause" saying that third countries were called to help in cases that American officials could not be used. [sentence as received]

In less than three weeks at least six senior delegations from various countries visited Tehran, said the daily referring to the arrival in Tehran of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Saturday.

It said the visit is made "in the context of the Persian Gulf crisis and the role Iran can play in making or breaking the U.S.-sponsored sanctions against the people of Iraq."

Mentioning that the trip is made following last week's talks between President al-Asad and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Damascus, the daily said that the Syrian president is likely to convey American requests for supporting the "international will" against Iraq's invasion of kuwait.

"Given the world's reaction to Iraq's Kuwait offensive and how it responded to and aided Baghdad's huge war machine against Iran, no world leader or international body has the moral authority to tell Iran how to cultivate its post-war Iraqi relations," said the editorial.

It added that the U.S. Britain, the Soviet Union and others who are accusing Iraq of invasion now were Saddam's close allies when "he was fighting their war against the people of Iran." REF: ld2409100390 tehran irna english 240721—daily says time

favors baghdad in gulf conflict

Editorial Views Time's Effect on Gulf Situation

NC2809100390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 24 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Time Benefits Iraq"]

[Text] Nearly two months have been passed since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Meanwhile, Baghdad and Washington as well as other allied forces, have been threatening each other incessantly. Apparently all diplomatic efforts to date have failed to achieve a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis. Prolongation of the neither peace nor war condition in the region will benefit Baghdad for several reasons.

The presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, the most sacred place for Muslims because of Mecca and Medina, will gradually cause cultural and political problems for Riyadh and increase anti- American sentiments in the region. Additionally everyday Muslims around the world become increasingly incensed over the Americans presence in the Islamic holy lands.

It is part of American culture that wherever Americans go they like to "Americanize" everything. Islamic culture and civilization has been and is against westernization and in particular americanization. Whether Washington wants it or not, long term occupation of the U.S. troops of the Arabian Peninsula and their activities will instigate the wrath of Muslims both in the Persian Gulf region and across the world. Washington's old and unstinting support for Israel will add to the Muslims anger against America. While the passage of time damages Washington's prestige, time increases Saddam Husayn's popularity among the Arab masses especially the Palestinians, Lebanese, North Africans, and Yemenis.

While the presence of the American troops in the Persian Gulf is being prolonged, the Islamic Martyrs Organization, active in Saudi Arabia, on Saturday Sept. 22 gave all foreign forces a three day time limit in which to leave Saudi Arabia. Surely such threats in the future and as long as the foreign forces are in the Persian Gulf will continue and Islamic groups will carry out anti-American operations.

Aside from its political and cultural aspects, time has had military benefits for Baghdad too. Since August 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait, Iraqi troops have taken defensive positions along their own as well as Kuwait's border with Saudi Arabia. Having practical experience gained during eight years of war with Iran, especially in regard to building defensive lines, the neither war nor peace situation has so far benefitted and provided the Iraqi army's combat engineering units an opportunity to further fortify their defensive lines with mine fields, barbed wire and other obstacles which will make an all-out attack on Kuwait more difficult.

Continuation of the present situation between iraq and the U.S. which has the largest number of troops in the region, will gradually demoralize American soldiers stationed in Saudi Arabia's deserts. The geographical conditions and especially the extreme heat will gradually deteriorate the U.S. ground forces' morale as they are not used to such a harsh climate. In case of war, the American troops' weakened morale will have negative consequences on their combat abilities, while the weather conditions are like a winning card for the Iraqi troops.

When soldiers live under ambiguous conditions wherein nobody knows what will happen, the psychological impact is unpredictable.

Six Fokker Aircraft Purchased From Netherlands

LD2409122690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Sep 90

[Text] The first flight by the Fokker aircraft which has been named Azadegan [free men] left Tehran for the holy city of Mashhad this morning. We draw your attention to our correspondent's dispatch.

On the third day of the holy defense week, the first flight by the passenger aircraft named Azadegan left Tehran for Mashhad this morning. The Fokker aircraft, which was recently purchased from the Netherlands, and named Azadegan in tribute to the courageous free men of our country, carried a number of the freed POWs and their families, as well as a number of the families of the great martyrs of the country, on a pilgrimage to Mashhad, to the sacred shrine of His Holiness Imam Reza, may God's benedictions be upon him.

Engineer Shafti, the managing-director of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Airlines, commented on this type of passanger plane. He said: The Fokker aircraft, which has the capacity to carry 108 passangers, is one of the most advanced aircraft in the world, and because this type of aircraft is equipped with computerized technical and communication systems, it has removed the need for flight engineers. Moreover, due to its low fuel consumption and maintenance costs, the use of this kind of aircraft has proven to be cost-effective. He said: On the basis of the contract signed with this aircraft's manufacturing country, they are to deliver five more such aircraft to the Islamic Republic of Iran's Airlines. REF: ld0409112290 tehran irna persian 041027—papers view gulf crisis

Editorial on U.S. Military 'Hesitation' in Gulf

NC2409144190 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 4 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "America Looking for a Warrior"]

[Text] After more than a month since the Persian Gulf crisis began, it seems that the United States is trying to entangle the region in a war of attrition. Despite the daily strengthening of the American forces in the region, the belligerent sides' overt threats, and the announcement about the failure of the political talks to resolve the crisis peacefully, there are no indications that America intends to end the crisis by a military attack on Iraq.

Some Western analysts say that the reason for America's hesitation is that its ground forces are unprepared. However, American military officials have clearly stated that Washington will not take the first step in starting a war.

According to Pentagon officials, during the next few weeks American ground forces in the region will be ready to confront Iraq's 1-million strong army. But facts show that America is not as enthusiastic about a direct confrontation with Iraq as it is about instigating a showdown between a regional army and Iraq. Thus, America could come to the aid of the side fighting Iraq.

Regional military circles believe that Washington has focused on Egypt and Turkey because of the number of men and equipment in their armies. Meanwhile, Turkey—with its 1 million-plus army, its membership in NATO, and its common border with Iraq—is considered by the White House to be in a better position for this.

Writing off the huge Turkish and Egyptian debts owed to the United States—$7.3 billion and $6.7 billion respectively—as compensation for the losses incurred because of these countries' participation in the economic embargo against Iraq and especially for the astronomic losses suffered by Turkey with the closure of its pipeline and the severence of trade with Iraq, is regarded as a reward that can be increased by American dispatches of arms and money in the eventuality of an involvement with Iraq.

Turkey's involvement with Iraq will not inflict any international or public opinion pressures on America. An official American source has said about a direct attack by U.S. forces against Iraq that if too much time is wasted, a schism will emerge in the international unity and especially in the unity of Arab countries against Iraq and that American public support for a military attempt against Baghdad will also decrease. In view of this analysis, if a third country becomes involved with Iraq, it will no longer be an issue of international unity and public opinion; this conflict can be protracted for years without being a direct threat against the lives of American soldiers.

What is important for America is to gain continuing presence in the region and to gain domination over the oil resources of Saudi Arabia and of other shaykhdoms. It is only under such conditions that America's main intentions on controlling the oil market can be fulfilled.

Turkey, as an American and European ally in NATO, with its longstanding claims to the Kirkuk oil reserves, is now thinking of American rewards and its full membership in the EEC as a West European reward for its involvement with Iraq. Turkey is also thinking of reviving and deploying Yenicheris.

Editorial Comments on Nation's Strength

NC2809193890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Celebration of Victory"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] When we say that our enemies did not achieve any of their objectives during the imposed war, we are not exaggerating. This is because if we glance once again at the stances of the war's main engineers, we can see that with Iraq's acceptance of the 1975 [Algiers] agreement, everything returned to point one and the imposition of the war did not yield anything for the enemies. On the contrary, by having gained great experience from its sacred defense, the Islamic Republic is now stronger than before, and it enjoys a strong position in all sensitive international areas. [passage omitted]

If U.S. President George Bush were to announce today explicitly: "With Iraq's withdrawal from all its positions, Iran has achieved almost everything that it wanted" let us not think that there would be no need for us to preserve our revolutionary defense spirit. We have already once tasted what it is like to be caught by surprise in a war. Therefore, it will not be acceptable for us to face a similar situation once again. And if we do not maintain our combat readiness, we will definitely not be able to carry out a powerful defense to repulse enemy attacks.

Today is the best opportunity for us to sit down and analyze the strong and weak points of the sacred defense and to insure ourselves against any attack by putting to use everything that we have learned and our experiences and revolutionary talents.

Undoubtedly, the rapprochement between the superpowers and the uniting of the front of blasphemy has created new conditions that demand more readiness every day. Even though the enemies of Islam have come to know what the strong fist of the combatants of Islam is and even though it is improbable that they will want to face such a divine force once again, nevertheless any negligence as far as our defense structure is concerned can tempt the enemies to want to try. Moreover, the Islamic Republic should—as the main source of Islam in the world—always be prepared to defend divine values. By pursuing a strong strategy and always creating a logical balance between national interests and the world objectives of the revolution, it should be be able to meet the expectations of the oppressed of the world even in times of peace. [passage omitted lauding the martyrs, POW's and MIA's]

Ugandan Industry Minister Ends Visit

NC0510075290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. E.T.S. Adrico, Ugandan industry and technology minister, who visited Tehran at the invitation of our industries minister, left this morning after being seen off by Mr. Ne'matzadeh.

During his five-day stay in Tehran, he met the industries minister and other high-level officials and signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, industries, leathermaking, and the manufacture of footwear. In this memorandum of understanding, the Islamic Republic of Iran agreed to assist Uganda in the field of iron ore extraction. During his stay here, the Ugandan minister visited the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair as well as some industrial units operating under the supervision of the Industries Ministry in Tehran.

*RESALAT Reports on 22 Aug Majles Session

90AS0420A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Division—A session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was held yesterday morning, presided by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi.

The report of this session by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent indicates that after remarks by the deputies from Rasht, Izeh, Mashhad, Abadan, Neyshabur, and Birjand the Majles was called to order.

The following is the text of the remarks by the pre-agenda speakers and details of the discussions:

Elias Hazrati, the Representative of the People of Rasht: No Adequate Measures Taken for Settling the Quake Victims

The first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Elias Hazrati. After extending his congratulations on the occasion of the release of the free heroes, the POW's, he addressed the difficulties of reconstructing quake-damaged Gilan Province and said:

After the occurrence of this calamity with its widespread dimensions, although over two months have passed from the issue, regretfully the main and most important problem, which is the settling of the dear quake victims, is still shrouded in a cloud of ambiguity. Although some minimum efforts have been demonstrated by the officials, some activities have been noticed, and various meetings have taken place, so far no practical action has been taken. What worried us and the people was the climatic situation of the region, the arrival of cold weather, the issue of schools and agriculture that must be addressed more expeditiously so that the people can find a small degree of settlement. The people are still living in tents. The schools are still occupied by the dear quake victims, and this is at a time when we approach the examination of the month of Shahrivar [23 August-22 September] and the opening of schools in the month of Mehr [23 September-22 October].

Continuation his address on the reconstruction difficulties, he talked about the issue of building materials and said: In connection with building materials, which is among the primary requirements, still the minimum amount of building materials have not been sent to the province—despite assertions from the start that if building materials are put at the disposal of the people, although in the form of loans and not grants, the people themselves will look for solutions to their problems. However, various, and at times contradictory, decisions have been causing problems.

Concluding his remarks, the representative of the people of Rasht addressed the issue of reconstruction of schools and said: Concerning the issue of schools, those which have been destroyed as well as those in which the dear quake victims have been housed, I request serious investigation of the situation for their re-opening. If we aim to have the schools open on the first day of Mehr [23 September], more activity and movement is expected from the minister of education and training and more sensitivity is expected from the esteemed minister of interior, who has received the special mandate of the council of ministers. Of course, there are arguments about the slow pace of work stemming from various pre-occupations, the arrival of the dear POW's and other regional problems. However, in any case, tomorrow the problem of rain and cold will be more severe and the schools also will pose more problems in this regard.

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, the Representative of the People of Izeh: The Al Sa'ud Family and Arab Governments Will Forever Bear the Shame of Hosting American Soldiers

Seyyed 'Abbas Musavi, the representative of the people of Izeh, was the second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He greeted the high spirit of the great Imam of the nation, the precious martyrs of Islam, and the great leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and offered his congratulations on the occasion of the arrival of the POW's to the Islamic country. He then stated his remarks in several categories as follows:

He expressed his gratification and appreciation for the efforts of the president and chairman of the national security council and minister of foreign affairs in confronting the difficulty which had hindered the implementation of Resolution 598.

He then referred to the events and recent crisis in the Persian Gulf and said: The recent events and the military presence of foreigners, especially America, in the Persian Gulf is a warning which must be noted with much sensitivity and full care and attention.

America must know that it will not profit from this deployment of forces, as it has not benefited so far. Arab governments and especially the Al Sa'ud family, who accepted this shame of hosting the American soldiers, must know that the abjectness and shame of this act will forever remain with them.

The speaker then stated some of the dire national problems and said: Issues which seem to be essential in the country are as follows:

1. Formation and mobilization of the national administrative organization.
2. Elimination of parallel management in the country and the increased expansion of parallel organization which, in itself, is cause for an increase in expenses, repetitions, overlapping responsibilities, and therefore cause for slurring of responsibilities.
3. Increased utilization of cash reserves by banks, activation of insurance companies, the Social Security Organization, and others.
4. Absorption of good and expert forces.

The speaker then referred to the problems facing Khuzestan Province and said: The problems of Khuzestan Province are: Making amends for shortcomings as a result of the war, activation of the major industries of the province up to their nominal capacity, and the granting of more authority by national banking sources for important projects in Khuzestan Province. Such projects are as follows: Doubling the railroad tracks; constructing the Andimeshk-Mahshahr expressway; expediting moves for the creation of new activities for the reconstruction of the port of Khorramshahr and the dredging of the Arvand-Bahmanshir rivers; retraining the provincial work force; creating rehabilitation activities to solve the problems of the deprived regions; cognizance to the regions of eastern and north-eastern Khuzestan—considering their favorable mountain climate, brave and hard working tribesmen, and many talents that exist in the tribal regions; creation of an atmosphere conducive to motivation for absorption of competent and specialized forces in Khuzestan.

He said: One of the problems facing my constituent region is water, in regard to which repeatedly notice has been given to the Ministry of Energy. However, regretfully, despite many meetings no effective action has been taken. The second problem is the strategic Izeh-Esfahan road—which is a problem with national scopes—and must be resolved.

Qorban'ali Saleh-Abadi, the Representative of the People of Mashhad: The U.S. Forces' Objectives Are Protecting the Sheikhs, Maintaining Israel's Territorial Integrity, Safeguarding Their Foothold and Arabia's Oil Wells

The third pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Saleh-Abadi from the Mashhad constituency. At the outset, he offered his congratulations to the Iranian people on two occasions:

1. The freedom of the heroic POW's who returned to the country after nine years.
2. The increase in the price of oil, due to the recent events in the region, resulting in an increase in oil income of producing countries—including us—which will mostly hurt the enemies of Third World countries.

The speaker then referred to the military occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and said: The next issue is the occupation of the small state of Kuwait by the Iraqi forces. Although this act is condemned and in the twentieth century international boarders are recognized, but the very important argument is, why have NATO forces entered the Middle East on such a scale. Since World War II, such concentration of NATO forces in a region is unprecedented.

The representative of the people of Mashhad then recounted the objectives of the American military presence in the region and said: One of the objectives of NATO, mainly the U.S. forces which have been deployed in the region, is to protect the sheikhs in the region and maintain the territorial integrity of Israel—which the elimination of the usurper Israel from the Middle East geographical scene is the inveterate wish of every Muslim.

The third objective being pursued by Western and the American governments is the reinstatement of the former government of Kuwait and security of the sheikhs.

The last objective is the protection of the most important base of the West and America in the region, which is Saudi Arabia, and protection of its massive oil wells.

In conclusion, he added: Fortunately, the imperialists have fallen into the trap of the Muslims. It is fitting that all Muslim countries, regional revolutionaries, liberation movements, and the brave Arab students aim and strike at vulnerable U.S. and Western interests—which are many in the region. America must know that this is not Panama, the Dominican [Republic], or Granada. This is the Middle East and it is occupied by millions of Muslims. A big country like Iran is in this region which, under the leadership of the Imam, has accomplished a revolution and has said that America is the major enemy of all the people of the world, including Iran. In the end, we shall not lower our note and must confront it. However, regretfully, we see that under the present circumstances some two-sided policies are being pursued—such as the invitation extended to the Kuwaiti foreign minister, which I request be withdrawn.

'Abdolhoseyn Moqtadayi, the Representative of the People of Abadan: The Persian Gulf Developments Are a Continuation of the Great Satan's Transgression Aimed at Overturning the Islamic Revolution

The fourth pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. 'Abdolhoseyn Moqtadayi from the Abadan constituency. At the beginning of his speech, he offered his congratulations to the exalted leadership and the self-sacrificing and noble Iranian nation on the occasion of the victorious return of the POW's to the Islamic country.

Continuing, he added: In fact, these events and victory are due to the sacrifices and generosity of a great man who, in the path of Islam and the revolution, made a pact with God. Thus, the completion of a job which, perhaps we were putting off to launch on and implement was realized by this revolutionary and crusading nation as a gift from God—for the sake of the grandeur and honor of Islam—only due to the imam's honor and special place he held with God.

He referred to the recent events in the Persian Gulf region and said: What is transpiring in the region, in principal, is the continuation of the ugly transgression—the first time designed by the great satan and implemented by its agents in the region—aimed at overturning the Islamic Revolution. Later, weak confrontation and adoption of weak positions by international organizations and circles at the time of the Iraqi aggression against the territory of the Islamic Republic became a justification for continuation of such transgressions and plunderings by America, the zionist regime, and Iraq. In practice, we have proven to the world that our policies are based on firm principals and factors such as the strength or weakness of our neighbors are not issues for us. In fact, what we do not wish for ourselves, we do not wish for others. Prompt and explicit condemnation of Iraq's transgression against the state of Kuwait by officials of the Islamic Republic, despite Kuwait's aid to Iraq during the imposed war, is the best example of this policy. On the other hand, we shall not accept the American presence in the region and consider it disgraceful for Islamic countries in the region.

Mr. Moqtadayi then pointed out the phases of formation of the government, establishment of the Islamic regime, enduring the imposed war and, at last, acceptance of the resolution [598] and spoke about the ensuing reconstruction. He said:

Now that, thank God, the situation regarding the resolution has been clarified to our advantage, the culture of reconstruction must be infused in the society, as were the cultures of struggle against corruption and wartime life.

Mr. Moqtadayi, referring to the calm during the period of reconstruction, said: During the reconstruction, the society requires calm in conjunction with the efforts and active presence of all forces. We must prevent the illogical clashes of views of political factions that cause confusion and worries in the society. This must begin with the Majles. We all know that every deputy can, without any limitation or excuse, freely express his views regarding any subject from the podium of the Majles. However, due to the shortage of time, views are stated briefly and without any explanation or analysis. This causes several interpretations of a certain remark to be presented to the public—some of which may even be contrary to the views of the speaker.

Under such circumstances, the Voice and Vision Organization [radio and television] must fulfill its mission and by airing debates between legal and acceptable political factions and conducting question and answer programs help clarify their views and opinions for the people. Thus, justice will be served and, also, the people will discover the nature and views of the political circles.

In conclusion, while pointing out the enthusiasm of the imposed war refugees to return to their province and also the new conditions along the national frontiers, he requested from the officials of the country tasked with rehabilitation to expedite the reconstruction activities of public buildings and people's houses in Abadan.

Mohammad Akbarzadeh, the Representative of the People of Neyshabur: Stable Management Is Crucial for Realization of the Revolution's Aspirations, National Interests, and Objectives of the Five-Year Plan

The fifth pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mohammad Akbarzadeh, from the Neyshabur constituency. He began his speech by offering his congratulations to the exalted leader and the brave people of our country on the occasion of the return of the POW's.

Continuing, he added: One of the important issues in the Five-Year Plan is stable management, which plays a crucial role in realization of the revolution's aspirations, national interests, and objectives of the Five-Year Plan. The experiences of the dedicated forces during the past

10 years—which were in fact the vehicles for the revolution—resulted from spending time, expenses, and at times bearing shortcomings. Today, this matter should not be taken lightly and, thus, result in ease in replacement of forces to the point that an esteemed deputy minister (the deputy minister of education and training for parliamentary affairs) can say with ease that, "The government has changed and replacements must take place." Dear Brother; the revolution has not changed yet. Replacement to what degree? Replacing the deputy and advisor to the minister may be acceptable. Does it mean that all the way down to the villages the management must change?

In this connection, he added: When asked what was the reason for replacing this pious and dedicated brother, the director of education and training for Khorasan province simply responds by this short sentence, "The lack of coordination with the Friday Prayer Leader." The question was posed that, "What is the stated reason of the Friday Prayer Leader?" At this point there are no answers. In fact, such questions are not even customary. Individuals are honorable. However, the law which is the interest of the society is more honorable than all. At first, officials must act within the framework of their legal duties and, secondly, be able to justify their actions otherwise corruption begins from within, as mending must be made from within as well.

Abolhasan Haerizadeh, the representative of the people of Birjand: All the Thoughts and Power of Islamic Nations Must Be Concentrated Against America

Mr. Abolhasan Haerizadeh from the Birjand constituency was the sixth and final pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He began his remarks by greeting the sacred spirit of the imam (peace be upon him) and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. He also congratulated the Islamic nation on the occasion of the release of POW's from enemy prisons and their arrival in the Islamic country and said: Next week coincides with the anniversary of the martyrdom of Martyr Mohammad 'Ali Raja'i and Martyr Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Bahonar. While holding dear the memory of these beloved of the revolution, I must point out how much the Imam, Martyr Raja'i, and other martyrs are missed—under the present world and regional political situation. 22 September coincides with the first of Rabi' ul-Awwal [the third month of the Arabic lunar year], the migration of the Prophet (God bless Him and grant Him Salvation) from Mecca to al-Medinah—which, today, both sacred shrines are under the boots of American soldiers, contemporary history's treacherous army of the great satan. Today, all the thoughts and power of Islamic nations must be concentrated against America.

He added: By offering my condolences and shame to the Islamic nation of Iran on the occasion of the arrival of the al-Sabah foreign minister of the fugitive government of Kuwait to Tehran—an emissary for abjectness—I wish to object to the esteemed government's method and style of establishing relations with England. Of course, the job was done and the matter was concluded while the Majles was in recess. I am forced to put aside principal 74 of the Constitution—since the order came that it is not advisable for me to invoke that principal under the present circumstances—and it is not in my best interest either. While thanking the High Council of the Cultural Revolution for their passing of the resolution of the month of Tir [22 June-22 July] which promoted the valuable position of the representatives of the exalted leadership in the universities, he stated: Every year during the Majles' recess some activities take place, decisions are made, and important tasks—suitable to be contemplated while the Majles is in session or an emergency roll call of the deputies with a 24 or 48 hour deadline should be implemented—are conducted in which the Islamic Consultative Majles should also be involved and its deputies must actively participate in political and important economic decision making. Indeed the deputies are interested in conducting the legislative activities by themselves and thus preventing the troubles of such actions to burden other dear friends. Also, the deputies will be in the mainstream and aware of important political and economic issues. The other matter is that the method of electing the experts is the subject of protest by many people, but one is choked when one wishes to say anything.

He added: Mr. Mohtashemi is a dear self-sacrificer of the revolution, the son of Zahra (peace be upon her) [Zahra was the Prophet's daughter—this indicates Mohtashemi is a seyyed, a descendant of the Prophet], a dear student of his eminence the imam, and has spent years struggling for the sake of Islam. Mr. Mohtashemi and the exalted leader have both lost their hands in the path of God and the Koran. They are the Abolfazls [the half brother of Hoseyn, the Prophet's grandson] of the Islamic Revolution of Iran. At the outset of Hoseyn's Moharram, the daily RESALAT in its second page published a derogatory and disrespectful text aimed at Mr. Mohtashemi. It published a story, the main characters of which are two frivolous youths named Fifi (a girl) and Manuch (a boy). Through the interpretations of Fifi and Manuch, the paper ridicules and makes fun of this descendant of the Prophet. The daily RESALAT which draws its respect and immunity from respected scholars—such as Ayatollah Azari-Qomi, Ayatollah Khaz'ali, Ayatollah Yazdi, Ayatollah Rasti-Kashani, and His Excellency Haji Shar'i—and thus enjoys their support and permanent backing, should not attack other scholars or be disrespectful toward them. It should not make fun of other scholars by insults and insinuations. Regretfully, in a later issue, His Excellency Ayatollah Azari-Qomi in his editorial, printed in RESALAT, gives a religious response to the effect that such matters such as Fifi and Manuch are not appropriate for a scholar like Mr. Mohtashemi. Is it befitting that a great student of his eminence the imam and a living martyr of the revolution, who lost both of his hands in the path of the struggle against Israel and the criminal America, be the subject of such outright ridicule and disrespect and other scholars keep silent?

Continuing, he said: Through His Excellency Mr. Shar'i, our exalted leader forbade the daily RESALAT to insult Mr. Ghaffari. However, three days later an article disrespectful to him was published. The other issue is that, the daily QODS, which is under the respectful supervision of Mr. Va'ez-Tabasi—and is published with the wealth and income from the shrine of Imam Reza (God bless Him and grant Him salvation)—at the start of Moharram wrote an article under the title of "The Objection of Kalb Esma'il"—As a result of Mr. Mohtashemi's objection to the methods [of election] of the experts—curses this Esma'il [like Abraham's son, Ishmael, who according to Islam was offered for sacrifice] of the Islamic Revolution by saying that he only learned the basics in the theological center and his unsuccessful bid had been to propagate a hundred stories. The article went on to say that Mohtashemi dropped out of basic Koran lessons due to his political involvements and has read the "Doziran, Dozebaran" [a rhyme read while learning vowels and consonants] in the context of Kalb Esma'il [a comical character]. It remarked that knowledge boils in Mohtashemi's heart and he is unable to let it come out [speaker is being sarcastic]. For this reason he is about to be barred from being admitted to the Assembly of Experts [because of the lack of knowledge] and, thus, he asks the dummy to devise a way (logical, objective, by way of a guideline, by a plan or something). Such interpretations of the daily QODS is cause for shame. Later, in a derogatory way, it writes: Kalb Esma'il, praise be upon your thirst for leadership ambition. There is no match for you, whose tube of knowledge has become inflated and bothersome. You are looking for a way to pour your non-existent knowledge out. However, now that problems have surfaced, let the air out of it with a needle. Be assured that there will be nothing left. Concerning the elementary version of the Koran, do not worry for there are no advantages in it for you. For the time being your political bread is hot and there is much time for learning your elementary Koran. The above prompted no response from any notable individual, scholar, or newspaper. No one came to the defense of the honor of a scholar, a seyyed, a devotee of the revolution, an honorable scholar who, as minister of interior, supervised and was responsible for elections of the experts, elections of the Islamic Consultative Majles and the presidential election.

Is it not harmful to the revolution to attack him? Mr. Tabasi was unaware of this article's publication. I request that he order the elimination of these roots of corruption in the QODS newspaper. Is it not warned in the Koran that "Vow to the sarcastic and insidious"? Four issues later, the daily QODS, which is published with the people's money at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him), insults the deputy speaker of the Majles, Mr. Bayat. Several passages of his interview were published. It was stated that, those who objected to the recent interview with the Assembly of Experts do not wish to weaken it. In fact these remarks in the interview are aimed at strengthening the Assembly and the assertion that weakening the experts is a treachery to Islam and Muslims is a baseless rethoric. Later, the daily QODS quotes Halu [a comical character] saying that, "The ugly, weird-looking, so and so, big-mouthed, big-headed, and bold Mr. Haluzadeh [another comical character] who is illiterate and does not understand the ups and downs of the world, do you think that we mean to be disrespectful to you by saying these things? No sir, such thoughts are baseless."

Haerizadeh added: If the views of a scholar who belongs to one intellectual faction are confronted by such insults, then what is going to be the decree of Mr. Va'ez-Tabasi? I request the halting of such anti-Islamic methods in the daily QODS. The deputy speaker of the Majles is insulted and no one raises any objection! Despite him being a religious figure, he is the deputy chief of the legislative branch. If such methods contrary to Islamic culture and behavior were applied to the president or the deputy chief of the judiciary, would there still be such a fearful silence in the press and by the notables? Concerning that infamous article of Mr. Mohajerani, the esteemed vice president, advocating relations with America, the highest officials of the country were approached in order to prevent the slightest hint of objection.

In continuation the speaker added: A Baqer 'Alavi attacks the religious character of Ayatollah Montazeri in the daily JOMHURI and proclaims his deposal from all honor and political as well as social standings in addition to deposal from deputy leadership. It writes that, "Nothing but this could be right." It then writes that, an overwhelming majority of the people can understand and analyze political issues better than this jurist. He is even depicted as a deviant from Islam and a wanderer in the land of heresy. No publication or notable character rose in his defense, except Mr. Khalkhali who stated his objection. In regard to Montazeri, his eminence the imam said: "Your respectable honor is in danger." After deposing him from the leadership post, his eminence the imam stated: I see it in your interest and the interest of the revolution that you be a jurist whom the regime and people can take advantage of your views. Is this the meaning of respectable honor? Is this, morally and objectively, the meaning of the regime and people taking advantage of his views? May God bless us with good endings. It is clear to me that the dear leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, does not agree with such methods and dealings.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was continuation of the investigation of the report by the Agriculture and Rural Development Commission in regard to the legal plan to support domestic animal husbandry which was passed by the deputies.

The bill for correction of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget law in regard to securing the expenses concerning the POW's was the second item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. It was presented with a double-urgent provision which, after discussions and studies in this regard, the double-urgency provision was put to a vote and was passed.

The last item on the agenda was the report of the special commission concerned with the bill for separation of the duties and responsibilities of the Ministries of Agriculture and Reconstruction Jihad. After remarks by the opponents and proponents, due to the shortage of time, continuation of the investigation was postponed until the next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

The next open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles will be held next Sunday morning.

*Worn-Out Passenger Planes Taken Out of Service

90AS0462H London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 90 p 11

[Text] "During the Five-Year Economic Expansion Plan, of which almost a year and a half has now passed, we will have to scrap 13 aircraft from the National Iranian Airline and we must expect to solve the problems of travelers with the eight aircraft being purchased."

The above was announced to the press recently by the acting director of the National Iranian Airline (Homa). He told correspondents that during the five years of development 21 aircraft are to be added to the company's existing fleet, and in return 13 of the existing aircraft will be taken off line.

Elsewhere in his press conference, the acting director of the National Iranian Airline discussed the expansion of Homa's foreign flights. He said: We are faced with difficulties with regard to the expansion of foreign flights. For example, with regard to flights to Japan we are faced with the problem of increasing the number of flights, and we have not yet reached agreement with our Japanese counterparts concerning increasing the number of flights.

The official added: Homa has now begun making flights to Malaysia, and flights to Seoul will also begin soon, and we are waiting for the announcement of a definitive conclusion from Korea.

Concerning the schedule for Homa's flights to Kuwait, Engineer Shafti said: This schedule has been suspended because of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

He added: The talks to open a direct air link to Canada were successful, and direct flights to Canada will proably begin in January.

*Import of Goods to Kish Island Declared Free

90AS0462J London KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] The Kish Development Organization, in carrying out policies to convert this island to a free trade zone in the Persian Gulf, has declared free import of goods and substances from every nation in the world. This organization also announced that the import of goods for re-export from non-origin countries is also permitted if a deposit is made to ensure re-export.

While beginning to implement the plan for special facilities for the importers to this island, the Public Relations Office of the Kish Development Organization announced that henceforth a maximum of six percent of the value of goods will be collected from importers to Kish as a development percentage.

The spokesman for this organization added: The import of goods to Kish from points other than their place of production will be free as of 23 August with the payment of twice the development percentage, and at the same time the import of goods from the place of production will continue.

*Montazeri's Authority Questioned in Press

90AS0464K London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] Although a power struggle is presently being waged between two main factions within the Islamic Republic, namely the moderates and the radicals, from time to time clashes become so muddled that it becomes difficult to distinguish who is fighting whom from which faction.

For example: As we know, fighting against Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri originates, more than any other place, from Jamaran and Ahmad Khomeyni's circle. Also, 'Ali Meshkini, in Qom, and Mohammad Reyshahri, in Tehran's governmental establishment, are responsible for its propagation and the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI is their media loudspeaker. However, it is not clear why Shiekh Sadeq Khalkhali continues to defend Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri at any chance he gets. This is considering that the position of Montazeri and his followers, on one side, and Khalkhali's, on the other side, are in complete contradiction.

The systematic attack against Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri—recently escalated by publication of Reyshahri's "Political Memoirs"—is now being followed by the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI. This media war has gone to the extent that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI says Montazeri lacks even the competence to be a jurist.

However, in response to these articles of the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Sadeq Khalkhali has said that, "Khomeyni's opposition to Montazeri's leadership did not stem from his disapproval of his competence as a jurist, but he did not consider him to be politically suitable for this position." According to Khalkhali, the denial of Montazeri's jurisprudence will be considered as the denial of the imam's jurisprudence. The reason for this is that not only did all of the officials of the regime refer to him, for many years, as the "Exalted Jurist," but Khomeyni also suggested to him to return to teaching in Qom. As all know, and Khomeyni knew better than everyone else, Montazeri gives no other lessons in Qom but jurisprudence!

*Medication Smuggled to Regional Countries

90AS0464J London KEYHAN in Persian 13 Sep 90 p 4

[Text] "Due to the cheap prices of medicine in the country, the domestic consumption and smuggling of medicine to regional countries during recent years has increased."

The above remarks were recently stated by Dr. Lotfi, the managing director of the Daru-Pakhsh [Medicine Distribution] Company, in a gathering of correspondents and representatives of the mass media. The above named person, speaking during the visit of North Korea's deputy minister of health to the Daru-Pakhsh manufacturing installations—announced that, in order to solve the chronic problem of the unmanageable consumption and smuggling of medicine, the government must allocate government-subsidized foreign exchange for the essential and critical medicines and authorize the importation of other types of medicine and their raw materials by foreign exchange at competitive and preferential rates.

While pointing out this company's manufacturing of several types of medical raw materials, the managing director of Daru-Pakhsh said: With a 4 million dollar contribution by the UN [Industrial] Development Organization (UNIDO) and the 150 million toman contribution of the Islamic Republic, a manufacturing plant for the production of raw materials is under construction in the Daru-Pakhsh Company. It is estimated that, upon its completion and utilization next year, this factory will be capable of producing 13 types of raw materials used in the medical industry.

Reports from Tehran and other city regions across the country indicate that, despite widespread claims and propaganda by the officials of the Islamic Republic's Health Ministry, the shortage of medicine is still one of the major and fundamental problems faced by treatment centers, patients, and those in need of these critical items. Also, the bustling black market for various critical and important drugs is, as before, held in the Naser-e Khosrow Street. Treatment and health experts are of the opinion that, in case traders are forced to import medicine with expensive foreign exchange, the prices of these critical items will sharply increase. This will lead to the deprivation of mostly the poor patients from obtaining medicine and, also, drastically increases the activities of brokers and go-betweens in the black market.

Nepal & Bhutan

Four Constitution Fundamentals To Remain

BK1010140490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1314 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Kathmandu, Oct 10 (AFP) - The Nepalese cabinet Wednesday unanimously accepted a draft constitution drawn up by a three-member cabinet sub-committee including four basic fundamentals which cannot be amended at a later date, sources said.

The three-member Constitution Recommendation Commission (CRC) also set the number of seats in the Lower House of Parliament at 205, and the Upper House is to have 60 seats.

The four fundamentals include a constitutional monarchy, sovereignty to be vested in the people, basic rights for citizens and a multi-party system of government constituted in the two houses of parliament, the sources said.

The CRC, which included the king's nominee, Education Minister Keshar Jung Rayamajhi and a member of the United Left Front (ULF) and the Nepali Congress, Law and Justice Minister Nilambar Acharya and Home Minister Yog Prasad Updhyaya, agreed on the draft after a marathon 72-hour debate, they said.

The appointment of ambassadors and the granting of general amnesties would be made by the king but only on the recommendation of the cabinet, the sources said.

Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai is scheduled to confer with King Birendra later Wednesday and deliver the draft recommendations to him.

The sources said the king might publicly announce the new constitution for promulgation early next week but not later than Monday.

Political observers here said the consensus reached by the interim government has apparently avoided the possibility of political disturbances in the country, as the ULF and the extreme left communist factions have been threatening to stage protest marches if any changes were made to the draft.

A Nepali Congress spokesman said the date for general elections would be officially announced after promulgation of the new constituion. An election date has been tentatively fixed for April, 1991.

Pakistan

Editorials View U.S. Aid Policy

DAWN

BK1110134190 Karachi DAWN in English 11 Oct 90 p 7

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid Enigma"]

[Text] American aid to Pakistan has become a bit of an enigma. Not that the aid bill does not become a talking point every year in September before the new fiscal year begins in the U.S. But this time it has evoked considerable speculation, some of it quite confusing. This is because the Bush administration has suspended aid to Pakistan. It has resorted to the neat device of not issuing the certification required under the Pressler Amendment. This certificate, which is designed to reassure the Congress that Pakistan's nuclear programme has no military intent or dimension is a precondition under American law for the flow of aid to this country. That is a bad enough situation to live with, given Pakistan's excessive dependence on foreign aid. After all, 578 million dollars, the amount said to be at stake next year, is not a measly amount. What is more puzzling is the confused reaction in Islamabad to this unexpected development. Different members of the administration have been speaking with different voices. Some have put on a brave face on the whole episode, insisting that they refuse to countenance interference from outside powers. Others have rushed to reassure the Americans that our nuclear programme is of an entirely peaceful nature. Irrespective of whatever has been said, policy-makers in Pakistan have not concealed their fervent hope that American aid will be eventually restored.

We can save ourselves much of this painful confusion and uncertainty if we try to be very clear in our minds that foreign aid is not something that is given for platonic reasons or out of an altruistic desire to help a people in need. It is an instrument of foreign policy which is used by the big powers to win friends and influence nations. Sometimes they can be quite ruthless about it. The Americans have adequately demonstrated this in pursuit of their aid policy. The nuclear issue has been employed by the government in Washington to manipulate aid flow to Pakistan. When it suited the Reagan administration to bolster Pakistan as a front-line state in the height of the Afghan crisis, certification was no problem at all. In fact, in 1981, Pakistan was given exemption from the Symington Amendment for six years at a stretch. But on other occasions when the United States' interest in Pakistan has been minimal, our nuclear programme has proved to be the bugbear for Washington to hold back on aid. This approach specially smacks of cynicism when compared with the tolerance displayed by the U.S. towards the nuclear programmes of other aid-receiving countries such as Israel, India and Brazil. Aid to them has never been suspended on the ground that they were developing a nuclear weapon capacity, though Israel and India are known to be employing their atomic know- how for making the bomb. The latest device added to the American armoury of legislative weapons is the Mikulski Amendment which requires certification of Pakistan's democratic credentials by the Bush administration before aid can be sanctioned by the Congress. This obviously will also be taken as an affront in nationalist circles here.

For the time being the government is not in much of a position to resist what will widely be seen as American interference in Pakistan's internal affairs. What should really add to our discomfiture is that one cannot quarrel much with the ulimate objectives sought by the Americans. The plain fact is that it should be an outside power, which also happens to be an aid-giver, that should be thrusting on us certain conditions and principles that are otherwise morally and politically unexceptionable and as such should have been our own voluntary options. What is more important is that in the long term Pakistan should seek to extricate itself from the clutches of aid-givers. This is possible only if the economy's dependence on foreign assistance is gradually reduced. This might not sound plausible at the moment. But a beginning can be made, even though it might be a very marginal one. But that beginning simply must not be delayed if national honour and independence of decision-making have to be protected against undue outside interference.

THE NATION

BK1010151690 Lahore THE NATION in English
10 Oct 90 P II

[Editorial: ["U.S. Military Aid"]]

[Text] The suspension of the U.S. military aid to Pakistan seems to have evoked queer responses. While the caretaker Prime Minister has shown surprise over Washington's decision, his Interior Minister has put the blame on Benazir Bhutto. Mr Jatoi seems to think that the nuclear issue is the irritant and told Pressmen that he has, in response to President Bush's letter, reaffirmed Pakistan's peaceful nuclear policy. He denied having any knowledge of the U.S. linking aid with free elections and said that the 'timing' of the decision was unexpected. He, however, appeared more 'hawkish' than his usual self when he disapproved of 'foreign intervention' in domestic affairs of the country. Mr Zahid Sarfraz, on the other hand, appeared to have a 'ready-made explanation' for Washington's rethinking, but perhaps he did not share his information with Mr Jatoi. Now that the issue of U.S. aid suspension is beyond the hush hush stage and all and sundry would be legitimately concerned about its possible implications, it is no time for underplaying it or using it as an election gimmick.

Given the enduring threat from across the border and New Delhi's known design to secure Kashmir through blackmail, there is hardly any room for complacency. It is praiseworthy that Mr Jatoi has had the nerve to tell the Americans to mind their own business, indeed a rare accomplishment for a Pakistani Prime Minister. But rhetoric alone is not enough to deal with the situation that might arise out of the American decision. Ostensibly, the assurances that Americans are seeking about 'free and fair polls' should not have posed any problems, since the powers that be are committed to ensuring it. But in case there is a divergence of perceptions and the Americans are deemed to be making unfair demands amounting to blatant interference, it is imperative that the government's response should take into cognisance the consequences of a rupture with our 'sole benefactor' in this stage and make contingency plans for dealing with the new situation.

Kabul Charges of Interference Rejected

BK0610134590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has described as wrong the Kabul regime's allegations that its interference in Afghanistan is for a military solution there. Exercising his right of response, the assistant permanent representative of Pakistan at the UN, Showkath Omar, said the Kabul regime itself, not Pakistan, is an impediment to a solution to the deplorable problem in Afghanistan. He said the hands of the Kabul regime are stained with the blood of the Afghan people, which has forced 5 million Afghans to live in exile. The Kabul regime, which has disintegrated both at home and abroad, has control over only a few cities through its acts of atrocities and brutalities.

On the situation in Pakistan, he said a complete civil government is functioning there in accordance with the country's Constitution.

Court Allows Police Custody of Zardari

BK1110071690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1017 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Karachi, Oct 11 (AFP)—Deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari was Thursday remanded into police custody by a local magistrate, court sources here said.

Mr. Zardari, 37, was arrested by the Criminal Investigation Agency (CIA) police Wednesday for allegedly abetting the abduction of a philanthropist for ransom. He was brought before Assistant City Magistrate Shehzad Naqvi under heavy police protection, witnesses said, adding that he was not handcuffed.

The sources said the magistrate allowed police to keep Mr. Zardari in custody 13 days for further investigation.

Agha Sirajuddin, a former housing minister in Sindh's government and Mr. Zardari's close friend who was arrested two days ago in alleged land allotment scandals, was also given into police custody for 13 days.

Ms. Bhutto, who described the arrest as a "criminal conspiracy" by President Ghulam Ishak Khan and Sindh's caretaker Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali to keep her out of election arena, is moving a bail petition Thursday to secure his release.

Mr. Ishak Khan sacked Ms. Bhutto on August 6 on charges of misconduct and abuse of powers during her 20-month rule and ordered fresh polls on October 24.

Mr. Zardari, a Karachi businessman, is for the first time contesting from his home town Nawabshah in southern Sindh Province. Observers said that if he was denied bail he would not be able to campaign.

Meanwhile troops and police have intensified patrolling in Karachi as the Sindh capital remained tense after the arrest of Mr. Zardari.

The mass circulation Urdu-language daily JANG said authorities had unearthed a plot by subversive elements to fuel ethnic hatred and unleash a wave of violence and kidnapping in the run-up to the polls.

Quoting informed sources in Islamabad, the paper said law enforcement agencies have been put on alert and security tightened at strategic points.

Special arrangements have been made "to protect important personalities" such as the president, provincial governors, chief ministers and leaders of various political parties, it said.

Meanwhile the Pakistan army's top brass Wednesday went in to what the local press described as a "very important" session in the Punjab capital Lahore, the centre of the country's politics, official sources said Thursday.

The two-day meeting, the second in a month, is being attended by all the corps commanders, the sources said.

Chaired by Army Chief Mirza Aslam Beg, the meeting is to cover professional matters and also review the election process, they said.

The chief election commissioner has asked the army's help in maintaining law and order during elections.

Sources said the commanders discussed the role of the army in ensuring "smooth and undisturbed polling."

Also Thursday, newspapers reported the abduction of Rear Admiral Abdul Wahid Bhombal, who also headed the state-owned National Shipping Corp. (NSC) from his Karachi residence Wednesday.

Unidentified gunmen whisked the naval officer away in a waiting car. There was no clue of his whereabouts, the newspapers said, and the motive of the kidnapping also remained a mystery.

Mr. Bhombal was appointed NSC chief during the 11-year rule of former president Mohammed Ziaul Haq which ended on August 17, 1988, in a plane crash that also killed more than a dozen top army officers along with U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphel.

Press reports also said Hamid Hanfi, the son of State Bank Governor Imtiaz Alam Hanfi, was released Wednesday after being held by unidentified people for about three weeks. His family would not say whether any ransom was paid.

Newspapers said three more students were kidnapped in Karachi while 10 people were abducted in nearby Hyderabad by unidentified terrorists stopping vehicles on a highway.

Since the change of government on August 6, about 50 people including top businessmen have been abducted. In most cases huge ransoms have been paid to secure the abductees' freedom.

At least five people have been killed in election-related rivalry in the past 24 hours.

Four died in a gun battle between supporters of Ms. Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party and the pro-Moscow Awami National Party in the northwestern district of Charsadda, and one was reportedly killed in Punjab, where 60 per cent of the seats in the October 27 elections are at stake.

Former Sindh Housing Minister Durrani Arrested

BK1010122990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 10 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Oct 9—Agha Sirajuddin Durrani, former Sindh Minister for Housing and Town Planning, arrested by Shikarpur police on Tuesday [9 October] morning was brought to Karachi by air in the afternoon.

The flight arrived 90 minutes behind schedule from Sukkur airport. From the airport, under heavy police Force, Agha Durrani was taken to CIA [Crime Investigation Agency] Centre where he would be investigated initially in a case relating to allotment of two plots [GC-1 and GC-2] at Nahar-i-Khayyam in Block 5 of Clifton [in Karachi].

Agha Sirajuddin Durrani, who is contesting from PS-7 [Shikarpur-1) on PPP [Pakistan People's Party] ticket, will be produced before a court on Wednesday [10 October] for his remand in police custody.

Police sources said he was wanted in a case registered against him at the New Town police station for the allotment of two plots in Clifton. He had been allegedly "absconding" since the registration of the case and Shikarpur police was asked to arrest him.

Police said he will also be interrogated for other "irregularities" relating to allotment of "over 400 plots" and issuance of no-objection certificates to about 61 highrise builders.

Police sources said more cases would be registered against him following investigations in the allotment of plots in Gulistan-i-Javhar, Gulshan-i-Iqbal, KDA [Karachi Development Authority] Scheme No 1 and Clifton.

The plots allotted by him include amenity ones in Clifton.

Sources said the NOC [No-Objection certificate] for 23 acres in Block 4-A of Gulshan-i-Iqbal was also issued by the KDA at his behest to regularise Karachi abadis [slum areas] there.

The caretaker government is stated to have restored no-objection certificates for 37 highrise builders. But their notification has been withheld for want of inquiry by the CIA to ascertain the "reasons" for issuing NOCs to them.

Sources said the builders who were issued NOCs or those whose NOCs have been restored by the government are likely to be examined by the CIA. Those who played "significant role" in the allotment of plots or helped the builders in obtaining NOCs from the Minister are also likely to be examined by the CIA following Mr Durrani's investigations.

Assembly Elections To Offer 'Few New Choices'

BK0610064190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0156 GMT 6 Oct 90

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 5 (AFP)—Pakistan's electorate will have few new choices when they go to the polls for the second time in less than two years with most members of the Assembly dissolved by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in August back in the race.

Analysts said almost 80 per cent of candidates from the two main blocs are from the previous legislature, disbanded by the president on the grounds that "it had lost (the) confidence of the people and an appeal to the 45 million electorate had become necessary."

A final list of candidates recently announced by the Election Commission shows that 1,340 candidates are vying for 207 Moslem seats in the 237-member National Assembly to be elected on October 24.

The Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) and the previous ruling group the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) are the principal forces in the election arena. The IJI has nominated candidates for 143 seats while the PPP has put up candidates for 183.

Major battle grounds are Punjab, the most populous province with 115 seats followed by Sindh where 46 seats are up for grabs.

In the 1988 elections that brought deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to power, the PPP secured 92 seats as against 54 by its close rival the IJI which is led by Punjab's industrialist politician Nawaz Sharif.

But the IJI was voted into power in Punjab and Mr. Sharif's control of the province triggered an unending tussel between him and Ms. Bhutto, raising, for the first time in the country's history, a greater demand for provincial autonomy.

Observers said since the IJI continues to dominate the provincial administration the rightwing multi-party alliance is most likely to retain its hold.

Ms. Bhutto, who is leading a hectic campaign in Punjab, may find it difficult to reach the level her party did in the previous polls from the province which is considered a bastion of power in Pakistani politics.

Mr. Sharif faces PPP-backed retired Air Force chief Asghar Khan in Punjab's capital Lahore from where he was elected to the National Assembly in 1988.

Ms. Bhutto, who is not contesting from Lahore this time, will be running in Sindh Province, where the PPP has put up 43 candidates, along with her husband Asif Ali Zardari, mother Nusrat Bhutto and father-in-law Hakim Ali Zardari.

In Rawalpindi a former minister of Ms. Bhutto's Cabinet, Raja Shahid Zafar, faces a political newcomer, the son of late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq, Ejazul Haq.

One important factor which may cost the IJI some electoral support is its policy of aligning with the nationalist forces in the southern Province of Sindh, observers said.

The interim government of Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, dominated by the IJI, has released a known Sindhi separatist leader G.M. Syed who had been detained by the PPP government on sedition charges.

In her campaign Ms. Bhutto has been consistently exploiting the issue appealing to patriotic sentiments in Punjab which provides the bulk of the country's 500,000-strong army.

For its part the IJI is apparently banking on its cooperation with the Sindhi nationalist groups to cut into the wide support the PPP has enjoyed in the countryside of Ms. Bhutto's home province.

IJI has fielded only eight candidates in Sindh with Mr. Jatoi and a former Premier Mohammed Khan Junejo facing the PPP in Nawabshah and Tharparkar. Both were defeated in 1988 polls.

The IJI has struck a close rapport with the ethnic organisation representing the Moslems who migrated and settled in the major urban centres of Sindh after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947.

The settlers' Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) led by Altaf Hussain, a staunch opponent of the PPP, is expected to maintain its strong showing in the cities by retaining the 14 seats it won in 1988.

The IJI-MQM understanding of not pitting candidates against each other, has however caused a bitter row with one of the important components of the alliance, the Moslem fundamentalist Jamaat-I- slami (JI).

The JI strongly opposes what it calls the ethnic based politics of the MQM which routed the fundamentalists from its traditional stronghold of Karachi in 1988.

In the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP) bordering Afghanistan, the PPP has put up nominees for 19 out of 26 seats while IJI is contesting in 17 constituencies.

However, the leftwing pro-Moscow Awami National Party (ANP) headed by Wali Khan is running in seven constituencies with IJI backing. In 1988 the party sided with the PPP.

Another important factor in that province is the fundamentalist Jamiut Ulema Islam (JUI) party of Fazal Ur Rehman which is fielding nine candidates in the province's 11 constituencies. The JUI has not sided with either of the main parties despite its opposition to Ms. Bhutto.

The JUI is also influential in southwestern Baluchistan, bordering Iran, where former Chief Minister Nawab Mohammed Akbar Bugti wields considerable clout.

Mr. Bugti's newly-formed Jamhoori Watan Party is fighting for eight seats with IJI support.

Agreement Reached on Nuclear Accident Plan

BK1110163890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] Pakistan has agreed to implement a one-year pilot international plan for nuclear accidents. The plan prepared by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development handles seven types of nuclear accidents which concern primarily nuclear reactors.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Rebels Abduct Tamil Party Leader

BK1210104690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0950 GMT 12 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool Item"]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—EROS [Eelam Revolutionaary Organization of Students] leader V. Balakumar has been abducted by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and is being kept under tight guard in a LTTE safehouse in Jaffna. Reports reaching LANKAPUVATH from Jaffna state that the LTTE had decided to disband EROS, accusing it and its leader of "fence- sitting".

The reports further state that the LTTE has asked EROS to disband and threatened to annihilate the leadership and its members as they did earlier to TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] leader Sabaratnam and 200 of his cadres in Jaffna and EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] leader Padmanabha and 12 members of its Central Committee in Tamil Nadu. Thirteen of its members of parliament were compelled under pain of death by the LTTE to resign from parliament as the Tigers had taken up the position that their's is the only group who should be the sole representative of the Tamils in the northern and eastern sectors.

The EROS was founded in London by V. Ratnasabathy. It was responsible for causing a number of bomb explosions in Colombo including one at the Central Telegraph Office in the heart of the city.

Wijeratne Discusses Jaffna Fort Battle

BK1110131890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1014 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Colombo, Oct 11 (AFP)—Police here rounded up about 200 Tamils after information that large numbers of them had arrived in Colombo from Sri Lanka's Northeast "with ulterior motives," a senior minister said Thursday.

Minister of State for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters at a weekly briefing in parliament that police arrested the Tamil youths Wednesday night at an unregistered guest house. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

Mr. Wijeratne also said the LTTE had handed over the bodies of 12 soldiers killed during the battle for a fort in Jaffna to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) but did not say when.

The Tigers last week said they were prepared to hand over the bodies of the soldiers to their parents on "humanitarian grounds."

Mr. Wijeratne said the government had not received the bodies of the soldiers and denied Colombo had made a reciprocal gesture.

He also dismissed LTTE claims that the soldiers died when the rebels stormed the 17th century, Dutch-built fort on September 26. He said they were buried in houses booby-trapped by the LTTE during an army offensive on September 13 to lift the siege and rescue 175 soldiers and policemen trapped inside.

The government says it evacuated the fort to hand it over to the ICRC and allow the neighbouring Jaffna Hospital to reopen, but it was then occupied by the rebels.

Mr. Wijeratne also said the air force had dislodged the LTTE flag, symbolising the separate state of Tamil Eelam that the guerrilla group wants to establish, which had been flying inside the fort since the evacuation.

He said the ICRC had asked the government to refrain from "doing anything that will delay the opening of the Jaffna Hospital" but he was against the LTTE flying its flag in the fort.

Mr. Wijeratne said the LTTE had been given 48 hours to remove the flag, following which the air force took "certain actions" to dislodge it. He would not say if the fort had been bombed.

The old fort is considered to have little strategic importance but is of great symbolic value to both sides.

ICRC officials could not be immediately reached for comment Thursday.

In continuing violence in the island's East, security forces Wednesday shot dead five rebels in two separate incidents, a military spokesman here said, adding that troops also raided a LTTE hideout in eastern Trincomalee.

He said that rebels inside the camp had fled on sighting troops, leaving behind large stocks of medicine and anti-personnel mines.

The bloody ethnic conflict between the majority Sinhalese and Tamils first broke out here in July 1983, and the past four months of violence alone in the Northeast is reported to have killed nearly 4,300 people.

LTTE Extorts Money From Jaffna Residents

BK0910141090 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0728 GMT 9 Oct 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Oct (LANKAPUVATH)—The LTTE is charging Jaffna residents a colossal fare of Rs. [rupees] 1,000 to travel by passenger coach from Jaffna town to the outskirts of Vavuniya. Latest reports received by LANKAPUVATH from Jaffna further state that the Tigers were also extorting Rs. 10,000 or two gold sovereigns each from Tamils living in the south who had been stranded in Jaffna, to leave the peninsula. Until Sunday [7 October], these people, many of them students, who had gone to Jaffna on weekend holidays had been forcibly prevented from leaving Jaffna, since the LTTE began its wave of wanton attacks on the police and security forces. The reports state that an estimated 2,300 stranded Tamils had managed to pay exorbitant demands of the Tiger extortionists and had travelled to Vavuniya on Sunday and Monday.

The reports further stated the LTTE which once owned three cargo ships was broke and coffers had run dry. Foreign funding had ceased as this time round the LTTE had alienated the world by inexplicably reneging on the Sri Lankan government during peace talks. Hence, the decision by the LTTE to allow those Tamils stranded in Jaffna to leave on payment of extortion money.

Last Nationals in Kuwait To Return 20 Oct

BK0511125990 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Oct 90

[Text] The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, who went to the Middle East to expedite the repatriation of Sri Lankans in Kuwait, returned this morning. The minister said that all Sri Lankan refugees in Kuwait will be brought back before the 20th of this month. At present, 2,500 Sri Lankans are being brought back to the country. Mr. Premachandra said that this number will increase to 2,000 or more per day shortly. Mr. Premachandra said as the outcome of his discussions with the European Economic Community [EEC], 20,000 Sri Lankans from Kuwait will be brought overland to Amman. He said that five officers have been sent to Amman to coordinate the overland journey from Kuwait to Amman with the EEC. The minister said he had visited the refugee camps in Kuwait. He also said that the International Organization for Migration had agreed to repatriate refugees by air. Mr. Premachandra also said that he delivered a letter to Jordan's King Husayn from the president, expressing his thanks for providing facilities for Sri Lankans in Jordan.

1991 Defense, Other Budget Proposals Detailed

BK1110132590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Text] The appropriation bill for 1991 has been gazetted. Accordingly, the estimated expenditure for next year is 92,942,793,000 rupees. The largest allocation is for the Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils, and Home Affairs. It is 16,000 million rupees. Ten thousand eight hundred and fifty million rupees of this sum will be for the provincial councils. The defense expenditure will be 11,780 million rupees. The allocation for the Ministry of Food and Cooperatives is 5,480 million rupees. Four thousand nine hundred million rupees have been allocated for poverty alleviation, while the Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and Social Welfare Ministry will receive an allocation of 7,200 million rupees. Transport, education, health, Mahaweli, and power ministries will also receive large allocations. The appropriation bill will be presented in parliament tomorrow.